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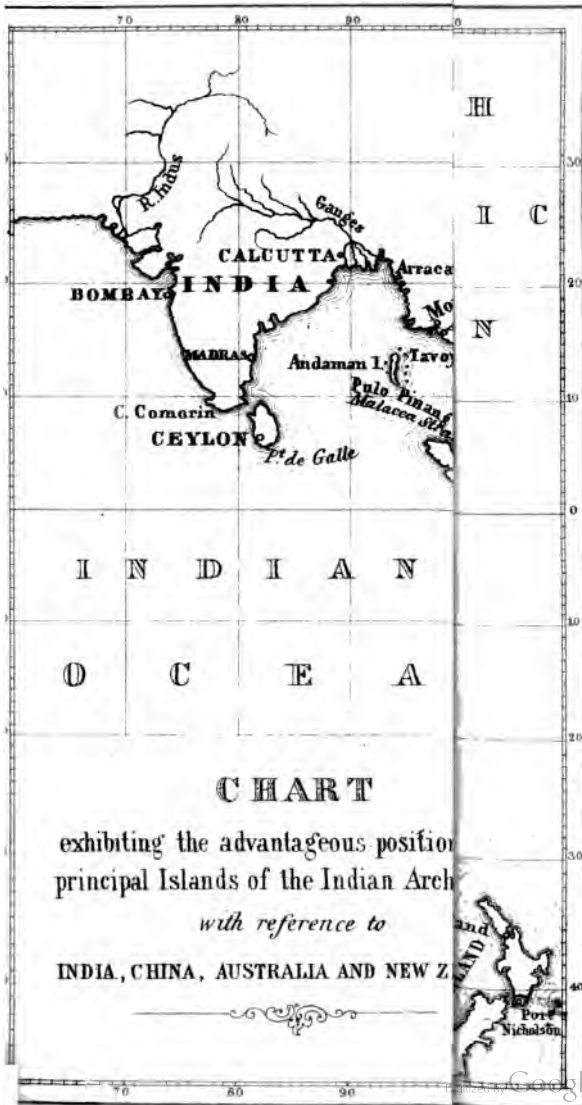
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INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO



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THE
INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO:

A Concise Account

OF THE PRINCIPAL ISLANDS AND PLACES

OF

THE INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO;

WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR PROMOTING COMMERCE AND
COLONIZATION THEREIN;

AND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VAST
RESOURCES AND THE CIVILIZATION OF THE INHABITANTS
OF THAT EXTENSIVE AND MAGNIFICENT REGION.

BY F. BOUCHER.

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THE CHIEF OBJECTS OF THE FOLLOWING
PAGES ARE—

To furnish a concise and accurate description of the principal islands and countries of the Indian Archipelago ;

To remark upon the piracy which prevails in that region—its causes and consequences—and to suggest means for its repression and extinction ;

To indicate how commerce and colonization may be advantageously extended throughout the Indian Archipelago ; and

To suggest measures for promoting the civilization and improvement of the native inhabitants, and for developing the vast resources of that extensive and magnificent region.

THE INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO.

THE EASTERN, or INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO extends from about the 10th degree of south latitude to the 20th degree of north latitude, or about 2,070 miles; and from 95° to 140° of east longitude, or about 3,100 miles; and in this vast space comprises, it is said, upwards of *twelve thousand* islands, many of which are of great extent, and have a numerous population. Several of these islands abound in valuable productions, as will be hereafter specified; the seas around them teem with many varieties of fish, excellent for food; and the climate of this region, though tropical, is pleasant and healthy, except in such places as are low and swampy, or subject to inundations. The entire population of the Indian Archipelago comprises about thirty millions of persons; these are chiefly of the Malayan race, and of the Mahommedan religion. They are mostly in a semi-barbarous condition, but seem to have attained to a considerable degree of skill in various mechanical operations—as in the working of metals, in some textile fabrications, in agriculture,

in the erection of buildings, in the construction of vessels, and in the practice of navigation. Generally speaking, the native inhabitants of the Archipelago are docile, intelligent, and susceptible of improvement. They are active and enterprising traders, and, as such, are extremely desirous of engaging in a commercial intercourse with the natives of European States. Under proper arrangements Christianity might be introduced and extensively diffused amongst these people, as will be hereafter shown. Altogether the INDIAN ARCHIPELAGO presents a vast and comparatively unoccupied field for commerce and colonization, and for the diffusion of European civilization, with all its attendant advantages.

The principal and most important Islands of the Indian Archipelago are—BORNEO, NEW GUINEA, CELEBES, JAVA, MAGINDANAO; SUMATRA, TIMOR, PALAWAN, FLORES, SUMBAWA, CERAM, GILOLO, TIMOR, LAUT, the ARRU ISLANDS, the SANDAL WOOD ISLANDS, the SOOLOO ISLANDS, the PHILLIPINES, and some thousands of islands of smaller size, but which are nearly all inhabited, and yield valuable productions. The European nations which first traded or formed settlements in the Indian Archipelago are—the DUTCH, the SPANISH, the PORTUGUESE, and the ENGLISH; but the views and aims of all these parties seem to have been more

directed to the carrying on an *exclusive* traffic, than to *unrestricted commerce* and *colonization*, or the improvement of the native inhabitants. At this time the only SPANISH settlements within the limits of the Archipelago are those at the Phillippine Islands, of which MANILLA is the principal, and a small penal settlement at Samboangan, near the south-western extremity of MAGINDANAO. The Portuguese retain but a few small settlements out of many formerly held by their nation. The chief of these is DIELA, on the north-west coast of the Island of TIMOR; it is a place of little importance, and, in common with the other Portuguese settlements in this vicinity, is fast dwindling into insignificance and decay. The BRITISH settlements in this region are *four* in number, and consist of the ISLE of LABUAN and the PROVINCE of SARAWAK, on the western coast of BORNEO; PORT ESSINGTON, on the north coast of Australia; and SINGAPORE, in the straits of Malacca. The Dutch are still, as they have ever been, the paramount European Power in the Indian Archipelago, and continue to maintain therein about fifteen settlements of considerable importance, viz., at MACASSAR, on the south end, and at MONADU, on the north end of Celebes; at TERNATE, in the Moluccas; at AMBOYNA and BANDA, in the Spice Islands; at BIMAH, on the north coast of Sumbawa; at COEPANG, on the south end of

Timor; at PALEMBANG, BENCOOLEN, and PADANG, in Sumatra; at BANJAR, MASSIN, SAMBAS, and PONTIANAK, in Borneo; at RHIO, near Singapore, at MINTO, on the Island of Banca; and at BATAVIA and SOURABAYA, in the splendid Island of Java, which was captured from the Dutch, by the British, in the year 1811, and (wisely ?) restored to the Dutch in 1815.

The monopolizing and exclusive system under which the Dutch have heretofore conducted their commercial and other operations in this region, is now fast working the ruin and decay of their settlements. Many of their places, formerly important and prosperous, have now become comparatively insignificant; several have been relinquished, and some yield no advantages; but the Dutch Government still maintains numerous settlements and considerable naval and military forces in the Indian Archipelago, and has still more influence and authority in that region than any other European nation. It is asserted by many writers that the power and influence of the Dutch have long been declining throughout the Indian Ocean, and that they are now unable to prevent the native inhabitants of many places, formerly under their rule, from trading with other parties. The exclusive and narrow policy, and the arbitrary proceedings of the Dutch authorities may be considered to have rather

tended to the fostering and increase of piracy in the Archipelago, than towards the repression of that evil; for, however sedulously and efficiently they may have protected their own vessels and settlements, they do not seem to have evinced any zealous desire to prevent or punish acts of piracy if committed against any other people. The good Hollanders appear to have regarded other European, American, or Chinese traders as trespassers on their domain, and to have been accustomed to stigmatize them as smugglers or buccaneers. In numerous publications the Dutch are roundly charged with having frequently exercised great cruelty and oppression amongst the native inhabitants of such islands as may have refused to acknowledge their authority or resisted their proceedings. These statements should, however, be regarded with much allowance, as the affairs and circumstances so referred to may have been misrepresented. The system pursued by the greatest commercial nations of the present time is so different from that adopted by the Dutch, in the conduct of their settlements and traffic in the Indian Archipelago, as to present the greatest possible contrast; and it is obvious that, if they desire to retain their power and influence in that region, they will have to modify their regulations so as to render them more in accordance with the spirit of the age and with sound policy.

For much that has been effected by them in the Indian Archipelago, the Dutch merit great praise; but unless they will now exercise a more liberal and less arbitrary policy than they have heretofore practised, they must soon cease to be pre-eminent in the Indian Ocean.

In making these observations upon the policy of the Dutch in their Indian settlements, it may be as well to intimate that the same are expressed in no unfriendly or hostile spirit; it could answer no good purpose to speak in any unfair or disparaging manner of the Dutch authorities, or of their proceedings or establishments in the eastern seas. In that splendid and extensive region there is "ample room and verge enough" for the unrestricted commerce of all nations; and, for the sake of all, it is to be hoped that this almost unused and very affluent portion of the globe may henceforth be made available in a manner that will prove universally beneficial. Monopoly and exclusion should be regarded as exploded fallacies; the native inhabitants should, in all cases, be treated with kindness, forbearance, and lenity; and a powerful tribunal should be formed in some eligible situation for the adjudication of all serious disputes. Of the rich and varied products of the numerous islands, there will always be a large surplus beyond any quantity likely to be required by native and foreign traders; and the

consideration of this important fact should preclude any feeling of commercial jealousy amongst them. Some of the certain and proximate results of an unrestricted and extensive commerce in this region will be the extinction of piracy throughout the Archipelago, and the civilization and improvement of its numerous and intelligent inhabitants. Many of the European or foreign trading vessels, frequenting these seas, will be so well armed and equipped as to be capable of repelling the attacks of the Malayan pirates, and will naturally combine for the repression of piracy and for mutual protection ; but as this subject will be specially considered in future pages, it needs no further mention here ; and a concise description of the principal Islands of the Indian Archipelago will be now furnished.

The principal Islands, previously mentioned, will be now briefly described. Borneo, the largest island in the world except Australia, is situated near the centre of the Indian Archipelago, and is certainly one of the richest and most fertile countries known. It extends from about 4° south to 7° of north latitude, and from 108° to 119° of east longitude ; its greatest length, therefore, from north to south, will be about 760 miles, and its greatest breadth, from east to west, will be about 690 miles. The southern coast of Borneo is distant about 200 miles from the northern coast of the fine island of Java, the head quarters of

the Dutch in the Archipelago, and the eastern coast is about 160 miles distant from Celebes. The island of Borneo is now known to be possessed of many navigable rivers, several of which have been partially explored, and found to afford easy access to the interior of the country, presenting neither sand-banks nor rapids to arrest the progress of the voyager, and being of considerable width and depth. On many parts of the coasts of Borneo, and on several of the principal rivers, Malayan settlements have been established, it is said, for more than five centuries ; but the interior of the country is still inhabited by numerous tribes of Dyaks, the aboriginal inhabitants of the island, who are independent of each other, and seem to be frequently engaged in local wars and hostilities. The Dyak tribes who live near the sea coast are subject to the rule of the Malays settled in their vicinity, but are not held in slavery by them, as they lead a wild sort of life in their own towns and villages, and only resort occasionally to the Malayan settlements for their own purposes. The Dutch and the Chinese have also several settlements in Borneo, and the British have recently formed a settlement on the small island of Labuan, on the north-west coast, and another at Sarawak, on the west coast thereof. When speaking generally of the island of Borneo, it may be stated that the west coast is now occupied by Malays and Chinese, the

north-west coast by half-caste Moors from Western India, the north part by Cochin-Chinese, the north-east coast by Sooloos, and the east and south coasts by Bugis tribes from Celebes, and some few vagrant Malays, or sea gipsies ; whilst the Dyaks, the aboriginal natives of Borneo, have mostly retired into the interior parts of the country. The soil of the western portion of Borneo vies in richness with that of any island in the Indian Archipelago, or throughout the world, and is known to contain inexhaustible mines of gold, diamonds, sapphires, tin, antimony, coals, and iron. Numerous other valuable productions are also exported thence, in large quantities, as camphor, bees'-wax, pepper, dammer or pitch-wood oil, ebony, deers'-horns, rattans, timber of various kinds, cocoa-nut oil, sago, spices, &c. ; and these, with other valuable commodities, may be generally procured at the various settlements, and usually at very low prices, whether for money or in barter for other merchandize, as manufactured goods, &c. The entire population of Borneo may be stated to be as follows, viz.—

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Of Dyaks, or Aborigines | 1,000,000 |
| Chinese and Cochin-Chinese..... | 200,000 |
| Malays | 100,000 |
| Bugis..... | 15,000 |
| Javanese, and others | 700 |
| Dutch, and other Europeans..... | 300 |
| Total | <u>1,316,000</u> |

but this estimate must only be regarded as an approximation to the actual numbers of the several parties mentioned. The Chinese and Cochin-Chinese are valuable colonists anywhere, and have here manifested that they are capable of extraordinary exertions in the conduct of commercial, agricultural, and mining operations, and that they are very enterprising, persevering, and industrious. The Malays and Bugis are mostly engaged in maritime and commercial pursuits, and the Dutch occupy themselves and their dependants in abortive attempts to monopolize the commerce of some portions of the country, and in the exactions of duties, taxes, and imposts from every party. The Dyaks, or aborigines, reside, as previously stated, in the interior portions of the island, and on the banks of some of the great rivers, in their own towns and villages, and, although very inferior to the Chinese, the Malays, and the Bugis, in knowledge and civilization, have yet made some progress in the mechanical arts, and in agricultural operations. Many of the Dyak towns and villages are of considerable extent, their dwellings are framed and constructed with much strength and skill, and, by all accounts, seem to be well adapted to their requirements, and to the nature of their country and climate. Their canoes and larger vessels are also well constructed, and they have so excellent a method of preparing and tempering the iron ores of their country, that

sabres made by them will readily cut asunder small bars of British iron, and without injuring the edges of the weapons. The Dyaks also fabricate some coarse cotton cloths, various articles of arms and wearing apparel, and some ornaments of copper and gold. These people, like most of the tribes of whom but little is known, were formerly reputed to be cannibals, and extremely cruel and ferocious; but it has since been ascertained that they do not devour human flesh, and are rather a gentle and well-disposed, than a ferocious race. Many of the wild tribes are certainly rather warlike in their dispositions, and somewhat prone to make hostile incursions into the territories of such of their neighbours as they may be at feud with, as the Highlanders of old were said to be. They are also in the habit of engaging in piratical expeditions, under the guidance and control of Malayan allies; but the people composing many of the interior tribes are said to be amongst the gentlest and most docile of the human race. Several writers concur in extolling the gentleness, kindness, and amiability of these people, and also speak most favourably of their aptitude for improvement. The wars and conflicts of the wild tribes are but prototypes of the desolating hostilities which have so frequently occurred amongst more civilized people, and may not be deserving of greater reprobation; but, as the Dyaks advance in know-

ledge and civilization, such exciting contests will become less frequent with them, and their swords and spears will doubtless be converted into ploughshares and other useful implements.

The fighting and piratical tribes of Borneo recall to the mind many of the descriptions given in history of the wild mountaineers, sea-rovers, and other predatory bands of Britain in its early days; and the adventurous Dyaks would not, perhaps, suffer much by comparison with those ancient and legendary heroes (?) whose exploits (whether real or imaginary) are so highly lauded in the traditions, ballads, and tales of our "rude forefathers," and by numerous modern writers, led astray by their poetical imaginations.

Most of the recent accounts of the people of Borneo concur in representing the great majority of them as intelligent, gentle, docile, and well disposed. The warriors have an extraordinary custom of collecting and preserving the heads of their enemies slain in battle. They keep these heads as trophies of their prowess and heroism, and use them as the most valued ornaments of the interior of their dwellings. These ghastly memorials of their valour are held, by the Dyaks of Borneo, in the highest estimation; but a brief intercourse with Europeans would, doubtless, induce them to relinquish the barbarous and disgusting practice of collecting human

heads. Many of the Dyak chieftains were said to have a great number of human heads depending from the rafters of their dwellings ; but it is not stated that such heads were all those of persons slain in battle, so that the greater portion may have consisted of the heads of persons who had died in a natural way. A custom nearly similar to that of the Dyaks recently prevailed amongst the New Zealanders, but was speedily relinquished by those intelligent and warlike people, after a brief intercourse with British settlers. The motives of the Dyaks for adopting so strange a custom are but imperfectly known ; but it seems clear that the collections of heads were intended to show the number of enemies slain by them in their wars, and as proofs of their valour. Upon being questioned by European visitors regarding this custom, the Dyaks often seemed reluctant to acknowledge its prevalence, and to be greatly confused and ashamed. It is quite certain that the aboriginal and the other inhabitants of Borneo are susceptible of a considerable degree of civilization and improvement, and that they are very desirous of having British settlements established amongst them. Whenever they have been communicated with they have evinced much readiness to conform to the wishes of their European visitors ; and the concurrent testimony of all such parties indicates

that they are clever, intelligent, enterprising, and well-disposed.

The principal Rivers which have hitherto been discovered on the coasts of Borneo are the PAN-DASSAN, the TAMPASSUK, the BRUNE, the REJUNG, the SARAWAK, the SAMBAS, the PONTIANA, the SUC-CADANA, the SINKAWAN, and the MATTAN, on the west coast; the ARRUT and the SAMPIT, on the south coast; the PASSIER and the KORTI, on the east coast; and several have been observed, but not explored, on the north coast; while many have, doubtless, yet to be discovered on each side of this vast island. Several of the rivers mentioned have been found navigable for more than two hundred miles from the coast; but, as yet, we have no authenticated details regarding them. The Chinese and Cochin-Chinese have numerous settlements in Borneo, and emigrate to those places in considerable numbers every year. The most important of these settlements are MONTRADOK and SINKAWAN, on the western side, and MALLADU, on the north-east coast. It is alleged that these people are much harassed and oppressed by Dutch officials, who assume authority over them. However this may be, it is certain that they are generally very prosperous, and accumulate great wealth. Few people are more acute and clever than the Chinese, and they are, at the same time, enterprising, sober, industrious, and per-

severing. By the exercise of such qualities, in a country like Borneo, and amongst a comparatively simple people, they can scarcely fail to grow rich speedily, and without much effort. It is well known that gold, diamonds, pearls, sapphires, iron, tin, copper, silver, camphor, tortoise-shell, bees'-wax, pepper, and other spices may be obtained in abundance, and at low prices, in many parts of Borneo. These, and many other valuable commodities may be there obtained in barter for manufactured goods, and upon terms which would leave an enormous profit to European traders, even if the same should be obtained through the medium of the Chinese.

The DUTCH settlements in Borneo are SAMBAS, PONTIANAK, LANDAK, and BANJAR-MASSIN, and from these places, their traders obtain annually an immense amount of truly valuable produce in exchange for cash and goods, and at rates which yield them fabulous profits. The commercial operations of the Dutch are conducted under a monopolizing and exclusive system, and are so trammelled with fiscal regulations as to be more restricted than encouraged. The Dutch can only avail of the inexhaustible riches of this fine country to a limited extent, yet do their utmost to preclude others from participating therein. It is time, however, that their long-continued monopoly should be abolished, and that an extensive and magnificent region, which has for centuries been

crippled and enthralled by their rule, should be now emancipated and thrown open to the commerce of the whole world !

Malayan settlements are established on each of the coasts of Borneo. The town of Bruné, situated on the river Bruné, is the principal of these settlements, and is the capital of the Sultan of Borneo. It is a place of considerable magnitude, as it comprises about two thousand dwellings and other buildings, and some fortifications. The population of Bruné is of a very mixed character, and is considered to number more than twenty thousand persons. The Sultan of Borneo claims the sovereignty of the whole island, but his authority does not extend further than about one hundred miles, in each direction, from his capital. All the Malays, Bugis, Arabs, and Javanese in Borneo acknowledge him as their sovereign, and so, indeed, do many of the Dyak tribes ; but, at any long distance from the capital, his authority is more nominal than real, and is but little regarded. Many of the rajahs and other great chiefs of the Malays seem to be nearly independent of him, and make no scruple of evading or disregarding his ordinances, should the same be disagreeable to them. The weakness of the Sultan's government, and the almost independent condition of the Malayan chieftains, his feudatories, have led to the growth and prevalence of piracy amongst the Malays and

Dyaks of Borneo ; and, until some controlling authority shall be established in the Indian Archipelago, piracy will assuredly be continued in that region. The British government, at the instance of Sir James Brooke, then the English Rajah of Saráwak, formed an alliance, in the year 1848, with the Sultan of Borneo, and at that time obtained from the Sultan the cession, in perpetuity, of the little island of Labuan, situated opposite to the entrance of the river Bruné. Coals of excellent quality having been found in abundance in Labuan, the British government caused a small settlement to be formed upon that island, and in 1853 appointed Sir James Brooke as the Governor thereof. Previously to the establishment of a British settlement at Labuan, and about the year 1845, Sir James Brooke acquired of the Sultan of Borneo the cession, in perpetuity, of the fine province of Saráwak, on the western coast of Borneo, and the rajahship or vice-royalty of the said province. This spacious and fertile district extends for nearly one hundred miles in every direction from the town of Saráwak, and is, in many respects, extremely eligible as a site for a British settlement in Borneo. This province is said to yield in abundance all the rich and varied productions of Borneo ; it has a large and navigable river, called the Saráwak, which flows through the country for more than a hundred miles from the coast, and is navigable for

that distance by small vessels. The fine position and the intrinsic natural advantages of Saráwak will probably conduce to its becoming, ere long, an important British settlement ; but, if the ownership of the province is vested in Sir James Brooke, his heirs and successors, it will be necessary to that end that Her Majesty's government should effect some arrangement with that gentleman for its surrender to the crown. A perpetual annuity, with a royalty upon its mineral products, might be guaranteed to him, and to his heirs and successors, for the cession of this province. His important and valuable services in this portion of the globe, and without the surrender of Saráwak, entitle him to something of the kind. In future ages he will be regarded as the founder of British rule in Borneo ; and, while it may be lamented that his ultra zeal for the suppression of piracy in the Indian Ocean should have led him into the perpetration of much unnecessary violence, and bloodshed, and slaughter, it must be admitted by all that he has, in many respects, proved himself deserving of the highest consideration of his countrymen. The adventures and achievements of this distinguished individual, as recorded in several publications, are of the most extraordinary and romantic kind that can well be conceived. In consideration of these, and for his eminent public services, he deserves to be ranked among the most celebrated

men of this century; whilst it must for ever be deplored, even by his admirers and friends, that his zeal and anxiety for the suppression of piracy should have led him into the commission of numerous extensive and barbarous massacres of the people, whom, he should rather have endeavoured to improve and civilize than to slaughter indiscriminately. It is probable that he will, now, concur in this opinion; and it is to be hoped that the British Government will no longer sanction such cruel and barbarous massacres of either real or supposed pirates.

In illustration of the preceding account of the great island of Borneo, the following extract from the Journal of Sir James Brooke, having reference to Saráwák, may be here quoted:—

“For the country, what shall I say? I could not wish a richer; its soil is fine, and admirably calculated for the culture of rice, coffee, nutmegs, or cotton. There is a noble river flowing through the territory. The southern boundary is defended by a range of mountains, of an elevation which affords an European climate; and the climate, generally, is healthy and cool. The mineral productions are rich. Then we have woods which would supply all the dockyards of Europe, and of the finest quality; for though we do not boast of teak, we have other timber equally hard and durable.”

The most considerable settlement on the east coast of Borneo is the Bugis town of Koeti, or Semerinden situated about seventy miles up the

river Koeti. This river is supposed to be the largest in the island; it has a somewhat tortuous or serpentine course, and penetrates the country for more than four hundred miles from the coast, but to what extent it may be navigable remains to be ascertained. About thirty miles above Koéti, or Semerinden, there is also a considerable Dyak town on this river, near a place called Tongarron, but of this no particulars can be furnished. Without dilating unnecessarily upon the value and importance of Borneo, it is but just to declare that, with regard to its natural advantages, there is not, perhaps, a finer territory in the whole world. In point of situation, it is almost unrivalled; its productions are rich, varied, and most abundant; the climate is fine and salubrious, and the country possesses, in an eminent degree, all the elements requisite for the formation of a wealthy and powerful state.

It is very desirable for the interests and prosperity of Great Britain, and for the welfare and improvement of the inhabitants of the island and the surrounding countries, that the British Government should acquire, by means of negotiation and purchase, the sovereignty of this vast and valuable country. If it be suffered to continue in its present condition, its resources will not be developed for many centuries; and it will hardly be disputed that, under British settlement and colonization, this fine country will

prove more advantageous to the whole world than it can possibly be under any other government.

NEW GUINEA.—The Island of Papua, or New Guinea, is one of the largest islands in the world, ranking next in size to Borneo; from which place it is distant about eight hundred miles. It is situated in the Indian Archipelago, and opposite to the northern coast of Australia, being distant therefrom only one hundred and fifty miles! The entire Island extends from 130° to 148° east longitude, and from 1° to 9° of south latitude: its extreme length, therefore, from east to west, is about twelve hundred and fifty miles; and its greatest breadth, from north to south, is nearly five hundred miles. The following table, showing the distance in miles from about the centre of New Guinea to the several places named, will manifest the advantageous geographical position of the island, viz.:—

FROM NEW GUINEA TO

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| North Australia | about 150 miles. |
| Moreton Bay..... | 2500 |
| Sydney | 3000 |
| Melbourne..... | 3700 |
| Adelaide..... | 4200 |
| Hobart Town | 3600 |
| New Zealand..... | 3600 |
| Borneo | 800 |
| Celebes | 500 |
| Java | 2000 |

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Manilla | 2000 |
| Timor..... | 700 |
| Canton | 2000 |
| Calcutta..... | 3000 |

The discovery of this extensive country is reported to have been effected by some European voyagers about the year 1600, yet, hitherto, but little authenticated information has been obtained regarding the territory or its inhabitants; and, although more than two hundred and fifty years have elapsed since the discovery of this vast island, it still remains almost a *terra incognita*.

Some vague and unsatisfactory reports have occasionally appeared of the coasts and the native inhabitants of the island, but these accounts are not much to be relied upon, and are generally of the most cursory and meagre nature. Judging from all that has been ascertained regarding the neighbouring islands of Borneo and Celebes, and from the little that has been reported of New Guinea, it seems probable that the latter bears, in its natural features and productions, a general resemblance to Borneo. The few notices which have been published regarding New Guinea, concur in stating that the productions of the country comprise—nutmegs and other spices, trepang, tortoise-shell, edible birds' nests, birds of Paradise, antimony, tin, gold, diamonds, pearls, sapphires, massoy bark, the finest of

timber, bees'-wax, and many other valuable articles ; and that these are bartered, by the Papuans, for gunpowder, muskets, small cannon, shot, calicoes, china and earthenware, iron-work, knives, axes, hardware, arrack, tobacco, coloured handkerchiefs, beads, cutlery, printed cottons, &c., with the Ceramese and Chinese.

It may be here stated, as a fortunate circumstance, that the sovereignty of this great island was formally claimed for the British Crown, in the year 1793, by Captains Bampton and Alt, in the ships "Hormuzeer" and "Chesterfield;" so that, in accordance with the established and recognised custom in similar cases, the British Government may at any time claim the sovereignty, and take possession of, and colonize this extensive and valuable territory. From the very few publications which contain any reference to this neglected and mysterious country, it appears that its southern shores, wheresoever the same have been examined, are mostly low and muddy, and so densely overgrown with mangroves and other shrubs as to be nearly impenetrable. On many portions of these southern shores mud flats have been found to extend for a considerable distance seaward, thus rendering such parts of the coasts inaccessible even for boats, and the Papuans, whensoever seen or communicated with, are stated to have usually manifested so much

hostility towards Europeans, as to render it inexpedient or extremely dangerous to seek to prolong any intercourse with them. "For, indeed," says an ancient Dutch narrative, "the natives of Nova Guinea are so utterly barbarous, treacherous, and cruel, that very few mariners who have ever landed amongst those wild and ugly black savages have escaped without losing some of their number; for those cunning and ferocious cannibals have generally contrived to lure their visitors into some ambuscade, and then to attack them when off their guard in vastly superior numbers, showing neither fear nor mercy, but ruthlessly slaying or wounding all they could get at, until the astonished and terrified strangers were all either killed, disabled, or driven off." In their personal appearance the natives of New Guinea are said to resemble the worst-looking of the African negroes, to have a very black complexion, black and woolly hair, broad flat noses, and thick lips, and to be of great stature and strength. They are, also, reported to be more ferocious even than the Ashantee, or Congo negroes, and to be still more evilly disposed; but it is notorious that similar statements have almost invariably been made regarding the native inhabitants of newly-discovered and strange, or unknown countries, and have usually been found extremely erroneous or vastly exaggerated. However this may be, it is certain that the

Ceramese islanders (a Malayan race inhabiting the Islands of Ceram) and the Chinese have carried on a considerable and extremely lucrative traffic with these terrible Papuans for some centuries, and have contrived nearly to monopolize the communication with them, by exciting their distrust and jealousy of Europeans, and by circulating false and unfavourable accounts of the Papuans amongst European traders and others. A little reflection will suffice to render it obvious that the country and the native inhabitants of New Guinea have been purposely and sedulously misrepresented by the Ceramese and Chinese traders, in order to preclude others from participating in their profitable monopoly; and it is, therefore, not at all improbable that both the country and the people will be found much better than they are commonly supposed to be. The Ceramese and Chinese are expert and crafty traders, and have long contrived, by all kinds of artifices and misrepresentations, to inspire the Papuans with a distrust and hatred of all strangers, in order that they may continue to carry on an exclusive traffic with them; and in this they have been so successful that even the Dutch, whose influence and authority are paramount throughout the Indian Archipelago, have been hitherto unable to trade with New Guinea, or to hold any continuous communication with its inhabitants. The Ceramese and Chinese traders still

continue, however, to carry on a considerable and very lucrative traffic with the (ferocious ?) natives of New Guinea, and to exercise some dominion over them, keeping them in awe by means of their superior skill in the use of fire-arms. The Papuans, upon further acquaintance, will probably be found friendly and tractable if kindly treated ; for there never yet has been discovered any race of people who proved inaccessible to kind and considerate treatment, or who did not endeavour to avenge injury and ill-usage !

Upon a review of the preceding observations, regarding the Island of Papua, or New Guinea, it will appear that this extensive territory, though known to Europeans for more than two hundred and fifty years, and within one hundred and fifty miles of the north coast of Australia, is still unexplored, and has been singularly disregarded ! In all probability this country, upon examination, will be found to possess numerous harbours for shipping, and navigable rivers, affording easy access to the interior ; a fertile soil, with a varied and beautiful territory ; docile and friendly inhabitants ; and many indigenous productions of great value and utility. The climate of some portions of the island will, doubtless, be entirely unsuitable for Europeans ; but many other parts of this extensive country will, probably, be found to enjoy a pleasant and salu-

brious climate, and other requisites for successful colonization.

Australia, a century ago, was but little better estimated than New Guinea now is ; California was, also, considered to be a worthless and scarcely habitable territory ; and New Zealand was universally regarded as a country unfit to be colonized, and inhabited by ferocious and bloodthirsty cannibals, who could not be safely communicated with ; yet how pre-eminently absurd do all these notions now appear, when those countries are justly considered, and known to be, some of the finest regions in the world, and to be progressing in improvement in a manner wholly unexampled. The case of New Zealand very forcibly exemplifies that but little regard should be paid to vague and unauthenticated statements regarding places which are comparatively unknown. For the sake of the world at large, and for the honour and interests of the British nation, her Majesty's Government should immediately send a small squadron to survey and take possession of the whole of the Islands of New Guinea and Borneo. Such a proceeding would merit and obtain the approval of all parties, and would confer both honour and distinction upon its advocates and promoters.

CELEBES.—The large island of Celebes is one of the most important places in the Indian Archipelago. It is somewhat centrally situated between Borneo

and New Guinea, and has an extraordinary form or outline, being intersected on each side by long gulfs, bays, and inlets. The whole island extends from 2° north to 6° of south latitude, and from 118° to 126° of east longitude; its greatest length, therefore, from east to west, is about 550 miles, and its extreme breadth from north to south is nearly 500 miles; but the area, or surface, of the territory, in consequence of its peculiar formation, is comparatively small. The finest spices, and many other of the most esteemed productions of the Indian Archipelago, are raised here in great abundance, and the inhabitants carry on an extensive trade with the Dutch, the Chinese, and the Malays. The territory is divided into four separate states or kingdoms, and is said to have been so divided for more than five centuries, and to be, therefore, one of the most ancient of the Malayan settlements in the Indian Archipelago. The four states or kingdoms into which Celebes is divided are named Boni, Wajo, Luwu, and Soping, and the form of government established therein resembles that which prevailed in Europe in the feudal times. The island is neither so populous nor so prosperous as it was formerly, and its decline is generally attributed to the misgovernment of the native princes and their subordinates, and to the oppressive commercial regulations enforced by the Dutch authorities. Under a better

form of government, and a well-regulated commerce, this fine island might be speedily raised to a much higher degree of importance than it has heretofore attained, for it abounds in all the elements of wealth and prosperity, and these might be developed to an enormous extent by means of judicious regulations and arrangements. The Dutch have two settlements, or, rather, trading stations, in Celebes,—viz., Macassar, on the south end, and Monadu, on the north end,—and their influence and authority may be considered as paramount throughout the island. Goa, or Macassar, formerly an independent kingdom, and an important division of Celebes, is now a dependency of the Dutch, who nearly monopolize the commerce of the place; but it is reported that the inhabitants are very desirous of emancipating themselves from the dominion of the Dutch, and of trading with other European or foreign nations. The interior portions of this remarkable island exhibit much beautiful and picturesque scenery, but are mostly covered with dense forests of gigantic trees. Wild beasts and serpents abound in these forests, and boa constrictors are known to exist therein in considerable numbers, and have frequently been found above thirty feet in length. The entire population of Celebes is stated to comprise more than two millions of persons; the climate, though sultry, is not considered insalubrious,

and Sir James Brooke, in his publications, reports very favourably of the native inhabitants as being the best disposed and endowed, and by far the best conducted, of any of the Malayan race of people in the Indian Archipelago. He appears to have passed a considerable time in Celebes, and his account of the manners and institutions of the people, and of the condition and resources of the country, is very interesting. The nobility and gentry of the island appear to form a sort of aristocracy, and are stated to be polished and highly pleasing in their manners and conversation. The inhabitants are very enterprising traders, and do not engage in piratical adventures or proceedings. They manifest, indeed, so much energy and ability in commercial operations, and in navigation, that some writers have termed them "the modern Phoenicians," and praise them in the highest terms. It is certain that they perform long and arduous voyages in their prahus, trading, occasionally, in every part of the Indian Archipelago, and, by their admirable conduct, have obtained the character of being the most enterprising, the most discerning, and the most honourable of all the native traders of that extensive region.

JAVA is one of the finest islands of the Indian Archipelago, and is remarkable for the magnificence of its natural scenery and for the exuberant fertility of its soil. It extends from 105° to 114° of east

longitude (620 miles), and from 6° 30' to 8° of south latitude, averaging about 90 miles in width. This splendid island was taken from the Dutch by the British in 1811, and was retained by the latter for about three or four years, and then restored to the Dutch government under some treaty. Batavia, the capital of Java, has always been the head quarters of the Dutch government in the Indian Archipelago, and is a large, handsome, and very populous town. It is situated on the north-western end of the island, and may be considered as the emporium of Dutch commerce in this region. The site of the town has, unfortunately, been very badly chosen, being in a swamp, where the receding tide leaves large tracts of mud uncovered; besides which, there are many docks and canals in the town, wherein much stagnant water collects, and from these mud-banks and stagnant waters a dangerous malaria arises, which renders the town extremely unhealthy. The great heat of the climate, acting upon the swampy and muddy soil of this vicinity, and upon a rank and luxuriant vegetation, continually generates an atmosphere which frequently proves fatal to Europeans, and is nearly as perilous to the natives of the country, by causing intermittent fevers and many other dangerous maladies. Vessels lying in or off the port are every night enveloped in this fatal malaria, which is conveyed to them by the land wind, which

blows in that direction every evening throughout the greater portion of the year. Most of the foreign trading vessels lose some officers and men during their stay in this port, and it seems unaccountable that the Dutch should have selected so bad a site for their principal town and port in Java, whilst there are so many other places on the island far more eligible for commercial and general purposes, and quite healthy. Some writers, indeed, have (maliciously) insinuated that the worthy Hollanders were induced to make the selection by an inherent partiality for swamps and morasses, and by a desire to repel the visits of foreign traders ; but it is hardly necessary to state that such insinuations are unwarrantable, as their fondness for hilly and mountainous countries, and their dislike of any kind of monopoly, are sufficiently notorious. The docks, warehouses, quays, and public buildings, and many of the dwelling houses of Batavia, are handsome and substantial structures, and, altogether, it is certainly a very fine and spacious town. The principal merchants and traders of Batavia, and the chief government officials, have country residences some few miles distant from the city, and usually resort thither at an early hour every evening. These gentlemen and their families live in considerable splendour and luxury, are very hospitable to strangers, and associate much together. By remaining in Batavia during the day only, they

avoid the evening malaria ; and all accounts concur in representing the interior of Java as a splendid country, and to be perfectly healthy and agreeable. Many British merchants and traders are established in Batavia, and these gentlemen are said to own upwards of two thousand square miles of land, in various parts of the island. Such lands are mostly used as plantations for coffee, rice, sugar, spices, &c., and yield immense crops. The European population of Batavia comprises about 10,000 persons, the Javanese number about 40,000, the Chinese about 20,000, and the Malays and others about 30,000 ; so that the entire population consists of about 100,000 persons. The extent of the commerce conducted here by the Dutch is very considerable, but is chiefly engrossed by " the Commercial Society of Holland," an association composed of the highest and most wealthy and influential persons of that kingdom. The principal productions of the island of Java are rice, coffee, sugar, tobacco, pepper, spices, sago, cotton, teak timber, and minerals ; and the surface of the country is more extensively cultivated than that of any other island in the Indian Archipelago, as the Javanese are eminently an agricultural people, and remarkably clever and industrious, and cultivate much land for European proprietors, as well as for themselves. The natives of Java are of the Malayan race, but are, in all respects, very superior to the

Malays usually met with in the Archipelago; and are, therefore, more highly esteemed by Europeans. Teak forests, of great extent, are found throughout the island, and in situations where the timber is available for ship building, or exportation. Slavery, in a modified degree, prevails in Java, the Dutch being the greatest slave-owners; but it is to be hoped they will not long remain liable to this reproach, any such system being clearly inconsistent with the real improvement and prosperity of the country, and the civilization of its inhabitants. In addition to Batavia, the Dutch have another place of considerable trade, near the north-eastern end of Java, named Sourabaya. This port is much better situated for commercial purposes, and far more healthy, than Batavia; and the town is one of the most important places belonging to the Dutch in Java. The port of Sourabaya is in $7^{\circ} 13'$ south latitude, and $112^{\circ} 46' 40''$ east longitude, and has an excellent naval yard, many building slips, and a good hospital. Supplies, refreshments, &c., are here abundant and cheap, and good water may be readily obtained in any quantity. The river here is broad, but has many extensive flats, which are uncovered at low water. Cali-Pujang, another port, on the south coast of Java, is said to be in many respects preferable to either Batavia or Sourabaya, and to be greatly resorted to. It is capable of containing the whole of the British navy, and may be

entered with facility by the largest vessels. This port is much nearer to the British settlements in Australia than Batavia, and, whensoever the Dutch may adopt free trade arrangements, in place of their present exclusive system of commerce, will become a place of great importance. The northern coast of Java is mostly flat, but covered with large trees to the beach; at a short distance in the interior there are several lofty mountains, 10,000 to 11,000 feet in height, and their high peaks serve as sea guides to mariners; some of them may be seen, in clear weather, at a distance of 90 or 100 miles. About thirty miles inland from Batavia the Goenong Gedeh, or Blue Mountains, rise to a height of 10,000 feet, and the Tegal Mountain is 11,000 feet above the level of the sea. The south coast is generally high, and composed of steep and rugged rocks, covered always with foam or breakers, and the whole shore wears a barren and desolate appearance; a terrific swell, especially during the south-east monsoon, lashes with unceasing fury the headlands of this coast, or, supported by the full force of the ocean, rolls into its ports and havens; but there are some few bays and harbours, on this coast, which afford safe retreats for vessels. The creeks and bays on the north coast of Java are frequented by pirates, who sometimes congregate in them in considerable numbers, and, being well armed, fierce, and enterprising, render it advisable

that vessels of every kind should be on their guard while in that vicinity. A group of islands, called the Thousand Islands, but which really comprises about sixty or seventy only, lies to the north-west of Batavia, and near the northern entrance of the Strait of Sunda, which separates Java from Sumatra, and is from ten to twenty miles in width. These islands are small, but beautiful in appearance, and are but little known, as the navigation amongst them is both intricate and dangerous.

The Dutch have only trading stations, and small government establishments, at numerous places in the Indian Archipelago, but do not colonise anywhere as the British have done in Australia and other countries. In the island of Java, where they have their head-quarters, and their most important establishments, the Dutch inhabitants (including the military and naval forces, numbering about 4,000) consist of about 10,000 persons only, after an occupation of more than 150 years! Under the rule of the British, in 1811, 1812 and 1813, the progress of the island, in internal prosperity and improvements, was most extraordinary; and it is, perhaps, to be regretted, for the sake of all concerned, that it was ever restored to the Dutch Government. A reference to the works of Sir Stamford Raffles, and others, will furnish the reader with information regarding this magnificent island, which will abundantly mani-

fest its value and importance in every point of view ; and which will go far to prove that it would have been better for all parties if the territory had remained under the fostering dominion of Great Britain. Some arrangements might be entered into between the Dutch and British Governments, for the cession of this extensive territory to the latter. It might then, perhaps, improve, as the State of New York did, upon being transferred from the Dutch to the British, though probably not in quite so marvellous a degree. As the Dutch establishments in Java are now managed, it is doubtful if the same yield any great balance of profit to Holland, after deducting the cost thereof ; while, if the island should be colonized by the British, in their customary manner, Holland might still continue to receive therefrom a larger yearly revenue than it now obtains, and some other advantages. Under such an arrangement all existing interests might be properly regarded and provided for ; and care should be taken that the Dutch Government and people should profit more by the cession, than they are likely to do by the retention, of Java. It is not meant as any disparagement of the Dutch Government and people, when it is assumed that, if colonized by the British, Java would increase in prosperity and importance more rapidly than it is likely to do under the rule of the Dutch, as at present exercised ; but is intended to shew

that a mere trading monopoly rather limits than develops the resources of that fine country; and that, as a British colony, it would be turned to better account than, as a Dutch trading station, it ever can or will be. It may be easily shewn that Great Britain is far more capable of colonizing and improving such a country than Holland can possibly be, and that the Dutch people might profit more by transferring their interests in Java to Great Britain than by retaining the same.

MAGINDANAO, a large island in the Sooloo Sea, is situated between Celebes and the Philippine Islands. It extends from 122° to 127° of east longitude, and from 6° to $9^{\circ} 30'$ of north latitude; and is, therefore, about 350 miles long, and about 240 miles in breadth. The Spaniards have a small penal settlement at Samboangan, on the south-western extremity of this island, but do not seem to claim the sovereignty of the whole territory. The native inhabitants of Magindanao are termed Illanuns, or Lanuns, and they are regarded as the most formidable pirates of the Indian Archipelago. They cruise about in every direction, with large fleets of prahus, attacking and plundering all trading vessels which may be incapable of making any effectual resistance, and frequently make descents upon some of the islands, and carry off great numbers of the inhabitants, in order to sell them as slaves. When the Lanuns have collected

sufficient quantities of plunder and slaves, and have disposed thereof, they return to their own country, and their place is supplied by others, who settle on the coast for a time, to enrich themselves by similar means. The Illanuns display great ability in maritime pursuits, and are so bold and warlike, that they seldom fail of being successful in their piratical expeditions. Their numerous and daring exploits have rendered them famous throughout the Indian Archipelago ; and they are regarded with a mixture of fear and admiration, rather than with any great abhorrence, by the inhabitants of the different islands ; but it is to be hoped that the time is fast approaching when the energies and talents of these clever and enterprising people may be exercised upon better objects than piratical adventures. The climate, and the general features, and the produce, of Magindanao, resemble those of Borneo, and do not, therefore, require to be particularised. The extension of British colonization and commerce in this direction, would speedily have the effect of converting the Illanuns from pirates and slave-dealers, into active and enterprising traders, agriculturists, and mechanics ; and their transformation would have great influence amongst the pirates of the surrounding countries, the Illanuns being regarded as the leaders of all the corsairs and freebooters of that region. Whensoever they may discover that piratical expe-

ditions are far more likely to end in disaster and ruin, than in any advantage to themselves, they will naturally relinquish such adventures ; but it is very doubtful if any occasional destruction of their vessels and strongholds, and of their crews, will ever effect more than a temporary interruption of the piracies of the Illanuns and their neighbours.

TIMOR is an island of considerable extent in the Indian Archipelago, being about two hundred and fifty miles in length, and having an average breadth of fifty miles. It is situated about seven hundred and fifty miles to the westward of the northern coast of Australia, and is much resorted to by Australian traders for the procurement of Timor ponies, a small breed of horses of excellent quality, and which are numerous and cheap throughout the island. The climate of Timor is said to be sultry and unhealthy on the coasts and in low situations, but to be pleasant and sulubrious in the interior. The Portuguese have several small establishments on this island ; the principal of these is at Dieli, on the north-west coast, and it is not a place of much importance. The Dutch have a considerable settlement at Coepang Bay, at the west end of the island, and many Chinese and Malays have established themselves on different parts of the coasts. Coepang Bay, on the west side of Timor, is very extensive ; and the town of Coepang is on the south side of the bay. The

flag-staff of Fort Concordia, a Dutch fortress in the town of Coepang, is in latitude $10^{\circ} 10'$ south, and longitude $123^{\circ} 35'$ east. The island is very hilly and mountainous in the interior, but contains a large quantity of fertile land, which yields in abundance most of the productions of the Indian Archipelago. An excellent breed of small horses or ponies is possessed by the inhabitants, and many hundreds of these animals are annually exported from Timor to the colonies of Australia and elsewhere. The price of these ponies in Timor used to be from four to ten dollars each; and they fetched at Sydney from £5 to £10 each, and were much esteemed. The native inhabitants of Timor are black, but not woolly-haired, and their features are more like those of the Malays than of the negroes. They mostly reside in the interior portions of the island, the coasts being inhabited by Malays and Chinese. Some of the mountains of Timor are supposed to be as lofty as the peak of Teneriffe, their summits being visible at a distance of one hundred miles; but the shores are generally low and flat, and densely grown with mangroves and other shrubs. Many valuable metals and minerals are found in this island, but do not appear to be exported thence in any large quantity. The bay, previously mentioned, is the most frequently resorted to by the Europeans, besides being the principal

European settlement, it is more convenient of access than any other port in Timor. Provisions, fruits, and vegetables of excellent quality may be obtained here in any quantity, and at very moderate prices ; and vessels proceeding from Australia to China or Java, and *vice versa*, usually touch at Coepang Bay.

SUMATRA nearly adjoins the north-western extremity of Java, being only separated therefrom by the Strait of Sunda, which is there only twelve or fifteen miles in width. It is about one thousand miles in length from north to south, and of an average breadth of one hundred and fifty miles, extending from 7° south to 6° of north latitude, and from 95° to 106° of east longitude. The population of this extensive territory is supposed to comprise about three millions of persons, and consists chiefly of Malays, Chinese, and Arabs. The country is divided into many states, and is under the government of native princes or rulers. The principal and most important of these divisions are Acheen and Palembang. Sumatra is generally considered to be the most ancient of the Malayan settlements in the Indian Archipelago ; and the people of the Malayan race found in the other islands are supposed to have originally migrated from its shores. Judging from the position of Sumatra, which extends the whole length of the Straits of Malacca and Banca,

it seems probable that the territory first became peopled from the Malay Peninsula, and, subsequently, distributed the Malayan race throughout the islands of the Indian Archipelago. The whole coast of Sumatra is low, and consists nearly everywhere of mud flats, which extend seaward for two or three miles, and are uncovered at low water, rendering the shores difficult of access for shipping. There are many large rivers on the island: the principal of these are the Salsee, the Oepang, the Soensang, and the Assing; the two last named being navigable for a great distance by vessels of heavy burthen. Although the shores of Sumatra are mostly low and muddy, they have numerous creeks and inlets, which are inhabited by a savage race of Malays, who have many prahus, and are ever on the watch to plunder and destroy any trading vessels which may approach their lurking-places. Vast and dreary jungles, which are nearly impenetrable, cover the greater portion of the country; and the solemn stillness which prevails in those gloomy and desolate wildernesses is said to be quite appalling. Wild beasts and serpents of the most formidable kinds abound throughout Sumatra; the largest and fiercest tigers, the most enormous boa constrictors, with numerous other serpents; and alligators, and other dangerous animals thrive here amazingly, and render the forests and unfrequented parts highly perilous to travellers.

In so extensive a country there will assuredly be many tracts highly favoured by nature, and possessing great advantages ; but, from the various accounts which have been published, it seems clear that Sumatra, generally speaking, will not bear any comparison with Borneo, New Guinea, Celebes, or Java. Many of the Malayan inhabitants of Sumatra are extensively engaged in piracy in connection with the pirates of Lingin, Magindanao, Borneo, and Sooloo ; and a large proportion of the slaves captured by these confederated corsairs are sold to the Malays who have plantations in the island.

The Dutch have several stations or settlements in Sumatra ; the chief of these are Palembang, on the north-east coast, and Bencoolen and Padang on the west coast. Each of these settlements is a place of considerable importance ; but Palembang is regarded as the principal. An extensive traffic is conducted by the Dutch in Sumatra, and they exercise much authority throughout the island ; but the country cannot be regarded as a possession of the Dutch, for the natives have successfully resisted the various attempts to subjugate them which have been made by the Hollanders. Sumatra does not seem to be a desirable territory for European colonization ; but an immense and lucrative commerce might be carried on with the native inhabitants, if the restrictions imposed by the Dutch authorities were abolished,

and the piracies of the Malays and their confederates were completely repressed.

The island of PALAWAN is situated between the northern end of Borneo and the Phillippine Islands. It is 270 miles long, and of the average width of thirty miles. The population is composed chiefly of Malays, but considerable numbers of Chinese, and Cochinese, are settled in various parts of the island. The inhabitants of this island are much addicted to piracy, and generally act in conjunction with the other Malayan and Bornean pirates of the Archipelago. The people of Palawan do not, however, entirely depend for subsistence upon their piratical operations, but contrive to raise a large quantity of produce, and to traffic extensively with the natives of the other islands, and with foreign traders. The interior of this island is much commended by various writers, who describe it as being replete with natural advantages, and of remarkable fertility. Though of considerable extent, and well situated, Palawan seems to be but little known.

FLORES.—The island of Flores is about 150 miles long, and thirty miles in breadth. It is situated between the islands of Timor and Sumbawa, is inhabited by a rude Malayan race of people, and is but imperfectly known. The north-east extremity of Flores is a high and steep promontory, of considerable extent, called Flores Head; it is in 8° 4' 45"

south, and 122° 50' east. Vessels may procure wood and water at various places on the coast, but it is doubtful if any valuable productions may now be obtained here; and the natives, though considered to be friendly, should not be implicitly trusted, as they are rather uncivilized, and have suffered much injury, occasionally, from the violence of pirates and traders. Flores is a place of resort for pirate fleets, and vessels passing, or touching at, the island, should guard against their attacks. The native inhabitants of Flores are often carried off by pirates, and sold as slaves. "The Yzer river, on the north coast, is navigable by prahus far upwards, and the stream carries down a considerable quantity of iron-ore, and also some gold-dust." Some few articles of provisions, as also wood and water, may be obtained at various parts of the coast.

SUMBAWA is a high volcanic island, about 150 miles long, and forty broad. It has been but thinly peopled since the memorable and tremendous eruption of Mount Tombora, in 1815, by which many towns and villages, and great numbers of people, and cattle, were destroyed, and many thousands of the inhabitants perished from starvation. This island is situated between Flores and Java; the natives are uncivilized, but good-natured and well-disposed. The Dutch have a small establishment at Bimah, on the north coast of this island, and, by means thereof,

contrive to monopolize nearly all the trade of the place. Much sandal-wood is produced here, and the yearly export of horses from Bimah exceeds 1000. Piratical fleets and prahus frequent the shores of this island, and attack vessels passing, but the natives of Sumbawa do not appear to engage in acts of piracy. Wood, water, and provisions, may be readily procured at many places on the coast of Sumbawa, and at a very cheap rate ; but the crews of vessels should always be on their guard against any treachery on the part of the natives. Teak forests are found in Sumbawa, but generally at too great a distance from the coast to enable the inhabitants to export the timber with advantage. The island extends from about 116° to 119° of east longitude, and its latitude is about $8^{\circ} 10'$ south. Bimah Bay, where the Dutch establishment is situated, is on the north coast of Sumbawa, and stretches deeply inland, forming a safe harbour, where many ships may lie quite landlocked, and sheltered on all sides by high land.

The SANDAL-WOOD ISLAND is so called from its producing large quantities of sandal-wood, which is much esteemed by the Chinese. This island is situated about 200 miles to the westward of Coepang Bay, in Timor, and from 70 to 100 miles from the southern coasts of Sumbawa and Flores. Besides sandal-wood, the country yields the several productions common to the islands of the Indian Archi-

pelago. The country is inhabited by half-civilized Malays and Chinese, but has no European settlement on its coasts, and the trade of the place is inconsiderable. The north-east coast has a monotonous and dreary aspect, shewing like a calcareous wall, with a nearly level top, about 1200 feet high; the east part appears to consist of sloping plains, covered with grass and bushes. The island extends from 120° to $121^{\circ} 30'$ east longitude, and from $9^{\circ} 40'$ to $10^{\circ} 30'$ of south latitude, and is, therefore, about 100 miles in length, and fifty in breadth.

The island of CERAM extends from $127^{\circ} 50'$ to $130^{\circ} 45'$ east longitude, and from $2^{\circ} 45'$ to $30^{\circ} 35'$ of south latitude, and is, therefore, about 200 miles long, and fifty miles in width. It is situated between the west coast of New Guinea, and the east coast of Celebes, and is inhabited by a Malayan race of people, who are extensively engaged in commercial and maritime pursuits, and in agriculture, and who are also pirates and slave-dealers. The Ceramese islanders are very active and enterprising, and have contrived to monopolize nearly all the trade with New Guinea. They have obtained a great ascendancy over the more uncivilized Papuans, and have so prejudiced the minds of the latter against foreign traders, as to render it dangerous for them to touch on the Coasts of New Guinea. Many slaves are annually obtained by Ceramese and Chinese traders

from the coasts of New Guinea; these are mostly Papuan negroes, from the interior of that great island, who have been captured by the coast natives, and are either sold at the neighbouring island of Kilwari, or to foreign traders, who hold them in much estimation, on account of their great stature and strength. Numerous smaller islands are scattered around the large island of Ceram, to which they bear a close resemblance, and are similarly inhabited. The Dutch settlements of Amboyna, Banda, and the Spice Islands, are situated off the southern coast of Ceram. If it should ever be thought desirable to establish any commerce, or communication, with New Guinea the Ceramese islanders might be very usefully employed for such purpose, as they have acquired great influence with the Papuans, and are also well acquainted with the coasts and harbours of the country. With regard to the unfavourable accounts which have been promulgated regarding New Guinea and its inhabitants, it is probable that all such accounts have but little foundation in fact, and have been artfully circulated by Ceramese and Chinese traders, in order to deter Europeans and other foreigners from visiting that extensive and almost unknown territory.

GILOLO and the MOLUCCA Islands are situated about 100 miles to the northward of Ceram, and in respect to their general aspect, inhabitants, and productions,

are very similar to that island. The inhabitants are said to carry on a considerable trade with the Dutch, and others, and their lands are considered to be very fertile and productive. The natives are of the Malayan race, but have many Chinese settled amongst them. These people are very desirous of extending their commerce and communication with European traders, and might be made extremely useful, should any British settlements be established in the Indian Archipelago.

TIMOR LAUT is an island of considerable extent, being about eighty miles long, and forty miles in width. It is situated near the Tenimber Islands, and between the Arru Islands and Timor. The interior of the island is lofty and mountainous, and the country is inhabited by a half-savage race of Malays, who hold but little intercourse with foreigners, and, consequently, enjoy the reputation of being treacherous, cruel, and rapacious. They are accused of having surprised and murdered the crews of several vessels who endeavoured to traffic with them, and are, moreover, said to be generally engaged in piratical operations. Having, whether deservedly or not, acquired so bad a character, the natives of Timor Laut are not often visited by foreigners, and have, therefore, remained comparatively unknown. The island is well situated, and will probably be found to be fertile and productive, and to possess many

natural advantages. This, and all similar places, ought to be visited, and reported upon, as but little is actually known of these numerous islands, except their several positions.

The ARRU ISLANDS consist of a numerous group of small islands of coralline formation, extending from 5° to 7° of south latitude, and from 134° to 135° of east longitude. The inhabitants are a Malayan race of people, who have made some progress in civilization and the mechanical arts, as they reside in towns and villages of well-constructed houses, cultivate the soil, construct excellent vessels and boats, and are rather skilful in working metals, and in various other mechanical operations. These islanders have a settled and orderly kind of government, and are mostly of the Mahomedan religion, but there are some professed Christians amongst them, whilst many appear to be of no religion. They entertain a very exalted opinion of Europeans, and shew them the utmost deference upon all occasions. The Dutch had formerly some stations, or settlements, in the Arru Islands, but have long since relinquished them; many of their buildings, however, still remain standing, and are kept in repair by the natives, who regard them with great veneration, and only make use of them upon occasions of state and ceremony. All these islands are low, and appear from the sea to be extremely verdant and fertile; birds of beautiful

plumage abound in their woods, fish are caught off their coasts in great plenty and variety; hogs, goats, rabbits, and poultry, with numerous fruits, and vegetables, are here raised in abundance, and the inhabitants, as before stated, are very friendly towards Europeans. The trepang (a sea-slug), and edible birds'-nests, both highly prized by the Chinese, are procured at these islands in considerable quantities; as are pearls, and tortoise-shell, and numerous other valuable productions, and the trade carried on by the islanders is of some magnitude and importance. The natives of the Arru Islands are termed "Arafuras," they are anxious for an extended commercial intercourse with Europeans, and are kind, orderly, industrious, and well-disposed. Their produce is bartered for manufactured goods with Malay and foreign traders who visit their ports and places, for they do not appear to perform long voyages by sea. The pearls found upon their coasts are not large, nor of any great value, and are usually obtained near the island of Vorkay. The proximity of these islands to New Guinea, and the docility and good qualities of their inhabitants, will always cause them to be regarded as valuable auxiliaries in any proceedings which may be adopted for the colonization or improvement of that vast territory; for, in the development of its numerous sources of wealth, and in the civilization of its barbarous inhabitants, the Arafuras may be

made eminently serviceable. The most recent accounts of these interesting people represent them "as living in peace and brotherly love, and without any discord ever occurring among themselves, or with their neighbours, although somewhat addicted to intoxication, the chief, if not the sole, vice existing amongst them." "They are strongly disposed to become Christians, and seem greatly to prefer Christianity to Mahomedanism; evincing, upon all occasions, a desire to be admitted as members of the Christian church, and an anxiety that Christian missionaries and teachers should be established amongst them."

The SOOLOO, or SULU, Islands are situated between the north-eastern end of Borneo and the south-western end of Magindanao. These islands are of small size, but are numerous inhabited by a Malayan race of people, notorious for their addiction to piracy and slave-trading. The Sooloo islanders strongly resemble the Illanuns, of Magindanao, in their characteristics and practices, and are usually associated with them in their piratical enterprises and depredations. Like the Illanuns, they evince great ability in all maritime operations and pursuits, and are of a bold, enterprising, and warlike disposition; but their general resemblance to them, in all respects, renders it unnecessary to repeat what has been stated of the natives of Magindanao. The

Sooloos are great traders, as well as pirates, and send their prahus on long voyages, and in every direction, throughout the Indian Archipelago, either for commercial or piratical purposes, as may be deemed most expedient. They resort with large and well-armed prahus, and in considerable numbers, to the coasts of Borneo, Celebes, and other islands, and carry on an extensive and lucrative commerce with the inhabitants of those countries, but are withal so dissipated and extravagant in their habits, and so much addicted to gambling, that, notwithstanding their superior abilities, their extraordinary energy and exertions, and their enormous gains, they frequently incur the most extreme vicissitudes of fortune, and when reduced to poverty, or necessity, seek immediately to retrieve their circumstances by engaging in piratical operations and adventures. The establishment of important British settlements in the Indian Archipelago would effect an immediate and complete change in the habits and proceedings of these people, and would at once convert them into enterprising and useful traders.

The PHILIPPINE ISLANDS are situated between Magindanao and Formosa, an island off the southern coast of China, and comprise many islands of considerable size. Upon the island of Luzon, the largest and most northerly of the group, a Spanish colony has been established for more than two cen-

turies, on the shores of the spacious Bay of Manilla. The capital of this colony is called Manilla : it is an extensive, populous, and well-built town, having many public buildings of a superior character, and some fortifications of a massive and formidable description. This celebrated and well-known place is the emporium of the Spanish nation in the Indian Archipelago, and is in many respects highly creditable to that renowned and once most powerful kingdom. Manilla is too well known to need any lengthened description here ; but it may be stated that the city of Manilla contains about thirty-four streets, built at right angles, and each fully one-third of a mile long, comprising about ten thousand houses, besides numerous churches, convents, public institutions, warehouses, and Government buildings, and a very mixed population, numbering nearly two hundred thousand persons, of whom only about seven or eight thousand are Europeans, the remainder consisting of Chinese, who have migrated thither, and Mestizas, or native Indians, and Vangleys, or half-breeds. The chief productions of the Phillippines are sugar, hemp, cordage, tobacco, sapan wood, and numerous other valuable woods ; coffee, indigo, hides, mother-o'-pearl shell, tortoise-shell, beche de mer, cocoa-nut oil, gold-dust, grass cloth, cotton, opium, and rice.

The principal cultivators are the Mestizas, or

native Indians; the shopkeepers are generally Chinese; the merchants are Spaniards, British, and other Europeans, and some few Americans; and all the Government posts and offices of any importance are held by Spanish emigrants. The population of the whole of the Phillippine Islands has been estimated to comprise about five millions of persons. All the Phillippine Islands belong to Great Britain, having been captured by the British in or about the year 1780, and mortgaged for the payment of the ransom agreed upon at the time of our conquest; and as, up to this time, neither the principal sum nor the interest has been paid by the Spanish Government, the Phillippine Islands may at any time be claimed by the British Government.

In this age the British nation may justly claim to be regarded as the foremost of all colonizing countries; but the Spaniards were formerly entitled to that high distinction, and, by their extraordinary achievements and operations in America and elsewhere, have acquired a renown which will endure to the latest times. It is impossible to regard what the Spaniards have effected in Mexico and Peru, and in many other portions of America, in Cuba, at the Phillippines, and in numerous other places, without astonishment and admiration; and more especially when it is remembered that they had many serious impediments and difficulties to overcome, from which

British colonization has, fortunately, been exempted. Those impediments and difficulties they surmounted with wonderful energy and ability; and the numerous memorials of their power and greatness still existing in America and in other countries will long continue to attest the former supremacy of the Spanish nation in the formation of colonies. The vast and sudden influx of the precious metals into Spain from various quarters, and at a time when the rest of the world had but a scanty supply thereof, is generally considered to have caused the rapid decline which ensued of the power and pre-eminence of the Spanish nation, by diverting the people from industrial pursuits, and by inducing a sort of national indolence and corruption. This, however, may have been but one ingredient amongst many which tended to occasion a result so greatly to be deplored; another, probably, was that the vast colonies of Spain absorbed the wealth and energy of the parent country without yielding any adequate return, thus proving the truth of the old saying, "that even gold may be bought too dearly." The example should not be disregarded by Great Britain, now that Australia is yielding more gold in one year than all the Spanish colonies ever produced in five years!

British colonization is now, however, conducted upon a system so totally different from, and so superior to, that which was adopted by Spain in former

days, that there is abundant reason for believing that the colonies of Great Britain will be more permanently prosperous and more beneficial to the parent country than the Spanish colonies have been.

Having briefly described some of the principal islands and places of the Indian Archipelago, and endeavoured to manifest the importance to the world of that magnificent and extensive but still undeveloped region, a few observations will now be submitted for consideration regarding the piracy and slavery which have so long prevailed, and still continue in operation therein, and upon the most effectual means that can be adopted for the repression and extinction of those great evils.

The most notorious and enterprising pirates of this region are the inhabitants of the free Mahomedan states in Sumatra, Lingin, Borneo, Magindanao, and the Sooloo, or Sulu Islands.

The system of piracy carried on by these people is exceedingly well organized for its objects, and extremely formidable. Some chieftain erects a village in a convenient situation as a depôt for slaves and plunder, and then lies in wait with his armed prahus in the frequented waters for trading vessels, or makes a descent upon some island to obtain plunder and slaves. If eminently successful, he soon augments his forces, and enlarges his town; and, in a little time, his fleet of prahus becomes sufficiently nume-

rous to be subdivided into squadrons of about twenty prahus each, which cruise in every direction. These vessels are from thirty to one hundred tons burthen, sail very quickly, and, in calms or light winds, are propelled with great rapidity by means of long oars or sweeps; they are armed with nine-pounder and swivel-guns, and carry crews of from twenty-five to one hundred and fifty men, armed with muskets, sabres, spears, krises, knives, and other weapons. The officers and crews have mostly been accustomed to maritime and warlike pursuits, and generally conduct their enterprises with great skill and bravery. In the extent of their fleets, in their appearance and equipments, and in their daring achievements, these adventurous rovers excel all the sea-kings and corsairs of old; and, throughout the region wherein their depredations are committed, are regarded by the inhabitants with a mixture of fear and admiration, rather than with hatred and abhorrence. The pirate chieftains, who are generally men of rank and ability, frequently unite their forces; their combined fleets sometimes comprise more than two hundred large prahus, and are then, indeed, extremely formidable to any opponents, as they manœuvre their vessels admirably, and often fight with the most determined and desperate valour. They will even defend themselves bravely against British ships of war, and, in many such encounters, have evinced the most un-

daunted resolution ; so much so, indeed, as to have frequently elicited the admiration of their gallant adversaries, who could not help expressing their regret that persons capable of such chivalrous bravery were not more worthily employed than in piratical adventures. Trading vessels of every country are captured by these pirates, plundered, and burnt ; their crews are sold as slaves to the Malays of Sumatra, Lingin, and other places ; and the goods obtained in exchange are sold amongst the islands by the trading prahus of the corsairs and their allies.

The Illanuns, or Lanuns, of Magindanao, are considered the most formidable pirates of the Indian Archipelago ; and, when not engaged in other piratical adventures, are generally occupied in attempts to surprise and carry off some of the islanders, in order to sell them for slaves. When resisted, they are said to be extremely sanguinary, and frequently to commit the most horrible atrocities. Almost every island affords a refuge, and a place of succour, for pirate fleets, and they either traffic, or commit depredations, in every direction. The practice of piracy, in this region, is so congenial to the dispositions of the parties who engage in it, and so extremely lucrative, and is, moreover, conducted in such an extensive field, and upon so grand a scale, that it is questionable if its complete suppression can ever be effected by occasional hostile operations, unaccom-

panied by other measures. For many centuries piracy, upon a very extensive scale, has prevailed throughout the whole extent of the Indian Archipelago. Though frequently checked, during the present century, by the violent and sanguinary proceedings of foreign powers, both piracy and slave-trading are still carried on, and almost as extensively as ever, by, and amongst, the native inhabitants of that vast and magnificent region. The origin, and the long continuance, amongst these people of such incursive and predatory practices, may be attributed to various causes, and amongst these the following may be regarded as the principal, viz. :—

1. The extraordinary natural formation of the region, and its peculiar features, comprising, as these do, innumerable islands, easy of access and abounding in creeks and havens, in an ocean generally placid, and navigable in every direction.
2. The great facility with which vessels may be constructed, manned, and equipped, at the several islands, and the consequent tendency of the inhabitants to maritime pursuits and adventures.
3. The enormous, though but occasional, gains obtained by means of piratical enterprises, and the small risk of resistance, or failure, incurred by any numerous and powerful body of pirates.

4. The facilities afforded, in many of the countries of the Archipelago, for the disposal of slaves and plunder.
5. The individual weakness of many of the islands and places of the Archipelago, and the absence of any honourable and profitable occupations for the superior classes of the native inhabitants.
6. The comparatively uncivilized and disunited condition of the native inhabitants of the Archipelago.
7. The want of a safe, profitable, and unrestricted commerce.

And 8, and most of all, to the absence of any great paramount controlling power or authority in any portion of that extensive region. It is highly probable that the reports and statements which are occasionally received from that portion of globe comprise very exaggerated accounts of the calamities and evils occasioned by the proceedings of the pirates of the Indian Archipelago.

All these are, doubtless, sufficiently deplorable; but, if even a hundred times worse than they are admitted to be, it may well be doubted whether indiscriminate and barbarous massacres of real or supposed pirates, and the destruction of their fleets, towns, and possessions, by any foreign or alien powers can be fully justified until after other and less

violent and sanguinary means of inducing these peculiar people to relinquish the practice of piracy shall have been attempted, and found ineffectual for that purpose. Comparatively small outrages and depredations are effected by piratical fleets amongst the islands of the Archipelago, and by way of repairing the damage so occasioned, *benevolent* and *enlightened* foreigners take upon themselves the commission of much greater outrages, by effecting indiscriminate massacres of real or supposed pirates, and the destruction of their fleets, towns, and effects. Such massacres and destructions have been frequently perpetrated, at intervals, during the present century, but have certainly occasioned more calamity and misery than advantage to the people for whose benefit the same were, doubtless, intended. It is indisputable that, from the superiority of their forces, tactics, and discipline, a few European vessels of war, if well managed, may, at any time, and with but small loss or damage, effect the demolition of large fleets of Malayan pirate vessels, the slaughter of a vast proportion of their crews, and the destruction of many towns and villages; but it is as certain that, after every such event, new fleets, fresh pirates, and other towns and villages will speedily arise, and that the practice of piracy will be resumed, until the people may be nearly exterminated by successive massacres; while the calamities and sufferings occa-

sioned by these *benevolent* proceedings will, in reality, be far more deplorable than the evils intended to be repressed thereby. Such casual and occasional resorts to violent and sanguinary measures may check, but will never suppress or eradicate the organised and formidable piracy which predominates in this region, associated as it is in the minds of the native inhabitants with notions of glory, honour, and profit. Tremendous and most desolating attacks have been repeatedly made by European vessels of war upon the supposed pirate fleets of the Indian Archipelago; but the bloodshed and destruction effected by such operations have rather aggravated than lessened the evils they were intended to remedy. In such indiscriminate massacres, the captured slaves, the plunder of the pirates, and much valuable property, were probably destroyed, or, in any case, did not revert to the parties from whom the same were obtained; while the calamities and afflictions caused by the operations of the pirates may have been vastly aggravated by the slaughter and mutilation of these people, and the destruction of their towns, families, and property. European vessels of war are frequently cruising about portions of the Indian Archipelago, and mostly without any definite purpose or object. The gallant and high-spirited officers and crews of such vessels soon become weary of inaction, and anxious to distinguish themselves in some active

and adventurous manner. While in this frame of mind, inflated reports reach them occasionally of piratical outrages having recently occurred in their vicinity. But little acquainted with the nature and habits, or with the condition of the very peculiar and semi-barbarous people amongst whom the reported atrocities have taken place, and regarding themselves as specially constituted for the extinction of piracy and slavery, they become inflamed with virtuous indignation, and resolve upon immediately chasing and destroying the pirates, of whose deeds they have heard such soul-harrowing accounts, and upon the suppression of piracy and slavery by force and arms only. In pursuance of such resolves, plans are devised for surprising and destroying pirate fleets and their crews. After a long and diligent search, some fleets of Malayan vessels are discovered, and are of course regarded as pirate vessels and immediately attacked. A ruthless and indiscriminate massacre and demolition takes place ; many hundreds of the supposed pirates are slaughtered or wounded ; their vessels are destroyed or dispersed ; their towns and villages are razed ; and thus much life and property are cruelly and uselessly sacrificed. After all such engagements, reports and statements of the operations effected are prepared and circulated, in which the evils of piracy and slavery are indignantly denounced and stigmatized, as they deserve to be ;

whilst the atrocities committed, and the injuries occasioned by the pirates are, perhaps, considerably magnified. The immense slaughter and destruction so effected, and with but little loss on the part of the assailants, will commonly be regarded by *benevolent* foreigners and their countrymen as highly commendable; and those who took part in such onslaughts will also, and with some justice, consider that they displayed great personal valour, some heroism, and much skilful management, in thus attacking and dispersing numerous and well-armed bodies of desperate and ferocious pirates. All this will have a tendency to influence other and similar exploits, and it will, therefore, be evident, that the outrages and atrocities which have been perpetrated by the Indian pirates in the Archipelago have usually been followed by indiscriminate massacres of those parties and their adherents, and the destruction of their fleets, towns, and property. It is certain, however, that these *benevolent* proceedings have rather aggravated than lessened the evils which they were doubtless intended to remedy; and it is much to be regretted that so great an amount of bloodshed and destruction should have been uselessly effected, whilst more humane and effectual measures for the accomplishment of the ends in view have been entirely disregarded. The piracy and slavery of the Indian Archipelago are not to be suppressed by such hostile

and violent proceedings as those above referred to. More radical and effectual, but less sanguinary and destructive measures should be attempted for the purpose, and it is hoped that, in the following pages, it will be manifested—

That the piracy and slavery of the Indian Archipelago may be speedily eradicated, and without bloodshed and destruction.

That the native inhabitants of that region may be readily improved and civilized.

And, that a lucrative and most extensive commerce may be created, and safely carried on, throughout the whole extent of the Indian Archipelago.

In order that the practice of piracy may be properly and effectually suppressed throughout the Indian Archipelago, it is indispensable that several British settlements should be immediately formed therein, in eligible positions, and supported by forces sufficient, in case of need, to compel the due observance of such regulations as may be established for the common benefit of the inhabitants and traders of that region.

These regulations should be framed in the most liberal spirit, and so as to avoid all unnecessary interference or collision with the native institutions, or with the authorities or people of the different islands or places.

A perfectly free and unrestricted commerce should

be allowed throughout the Archipelago, to the traders of every place or nation, and exclusive privileges should not be conferred upon British subjects.

Under arrangements similar to those above indicated, the clever and enterprising inhabitants of the country would rapidly improve; piracy and slavery would speedily be relinquished by these people, upon their becoming aware that they could no longer continue to carry on the same with safety and advantage, and that they could profit more largely and continuously by means of trading operations; while the civilized world will no more be shocked by occasional recurrences of the indiscriminate and barbarous massacres which during the present century have been perpetrated by foreign powers upon the real or supposed pirates of the Indian Archipelago. The cruelty and inutility of these occasional massacres are too obvious to need insisting upon; and the published accounts of engagements between British vessels of war, and Indian pirate fleets, will more than bear out all that may be herein advanced in reprobation of such proceedings.

Assuming that British settlements may be shortly established, in the manner, and for the purposes previously suggested, in various parts of the Indian Archipelago, the first care of the principal authorities thereof should be, to notify formally and officially to

all the native rulers, chieftains, and inhabitants of the country, and to all foreign powers—

1. The establishment of such settlements by the British Government, and the chief purposes for which the same were formed. The principal regulations and arrangements to which all parties would be required to conform. That neither piracy nor slavery would be any longer permitted in the Indian Archipelago. And that the British government would have constantly in the Archipelago forces sufficient to compel, when necessary, a due observance of its decrees.
2. The said authorities should most fully and clearly notify that the British government does not desire, and will not seek to obtain or establish any peculiar or exclusive privileges or advantages whatsoever for British subjects; but will guarantee for all nations a safe, free, and unrestricted commerce throughout the Indian Archipelago.
3. The British authorities should also notify that they will not sanction or suffer any serious infractions (whether by British subjects or by other parties) of the established and recognised rights of any native or foreign power in the Indian Archipelago; but that they are prepared to enter into treaties and alliances with the native authorities of the Archipelago,

with such foreign powers as may trade or possess settlements therein.

4. The British authorities should, also, and extensively, notify that they will, whensoever practicable and expedient, employ the native gentry and people of the country as local officers, agents, &c., and that the native inhabitants shall, in all cases, be treated with kindness and forbearance by British subjects, and protected from any wrong.
5. A supreme court of legislation and judicature should be established, at an early period, in the principal British settlement in the Indian Archipelago. The regulations, ordinances, and decrees of this court should be binding upon all parties; all serious disputes or questions should be referred to it, and its decisions should be regarded as final, and without appeal.

In such a court justice would be temperately and impartially administered; all parties would have implicit confidence in its integrity, and would be aware that its decrees would be duly enforced. A controlling and virtually irresistible power has long been the chief requisite in the Indian Archipelago.

It is mainly owing to the absence of any such authority in that region, that so fine a portion of the world has continued for centuries in a comparatively

unproductive and semi-barbarous condition, although abounding in all the elements of prosperity.

Piracy and slavery, with numerous minor evils, have prevailed therein from the want of such a power ; its establishment, in the manner suggested, will effectually suppress those evils, while it will promote the development of the resources of the country, and the civilization of its inhabitants.

There will not then be any pretext for a recurrence to such barbarous and indiscriminate massacres as have frequently been perpetrated upon the supposed pirates of the Indian Archipelago. A safe, free, and lucrative commerce will necessarily and speedily supersede all piratical operations and adventures, by furnishing a congenial occupation for the intelligent and enterprising people by whom the same were conducted ; and when these, and all other parties shall become fully aware of the nature and objects of the British settlements in that region, and the forces at their disposal, resort to force and arms will seldom or never be needed. In a little time it will become known to the inhabitants generally, and to foreign traders and others, that the regulations and arrangements of the British authorities are free from any monopolizing or exclusive conditions ; are intended for the common benefit of all parties ; and that the due observance of the same will be impartially required. They will also learn that piracy and slavery must be

immediately discontinued; that free trade is to prevail throughout the Archipelago; that the native princes and rulers must govern their dominions properly, and that neither wars nor depredations will be permitted amongst them; that the British government is willing to enter into treaties and alliances with the native authorities; and that all serious disputes or questions must be submitted for decision to such supreme court as the British government may establish in the Indian Archipelago. In pursuance of the preceding remarks, and with the view of obtaining for the measures proposed that consideration which their importance merits, it may not be amiss to repeat here that the objects which the British public should be particularly desirous of immediately effecting in the Indian Archipelago, are—

1. The establishment of a paramount controlling power and authority therein.
2. The establishment of several British settlements at various places in the Archipelago, and the promotion of free and unrestricted commerce throughout that region.
3. The complete suppression of piracy and slavery, and the civilization of the native inhabitants.
- And 4. The development of the vast resources, and the general improvement of that extensive and magnificent portion of the globe.

It has already been urged that, for the accomplishment of objects so desirable as those just mentioned, it is indispensable that British settlements should be forthwith established at various places in the Indian Archipelago; and it is now submitted that the best positions for such settlements are the following, *viz.* :

At Port Essington one, on the north coast of Australia.

At New Guinea three, one on the western, one on the southern, and one on the northern coast.

At New Britain one, at Port Montague, on the south coast.

At Timor two, one on the south, and one on the north coast.

At Flores one, on the south coast.

At Sumbawa two, one on the south, and one on the north coast.

At Java one, on the south coast.

At Borneo three, one at Sarawak, one at the Koeti River, one at Banjar Massin.

At Celebes one, at Macassar, south coast.

But, previously to fixing upon any position for a settlement, the vicinity should be carefully surveyed and examined; and it should not be adopted until it may be found to possess all the chief natural requisites for the intended purpose. The measures and operations heretofore suggested are so manifestly to the interests of the British nation, and of the

rest of the world, that it is to be hoped numerous influential parties will urge the immediate adoption of the same upon her Majesty's Government.

The proper authorities, upon having the said matters brought under their consideration, will, doubtless, perceive the expediency of promoting the measures suggested ; and, for the sake of all concerned, it is to be hoped that all parties will cordially and zealously unite and co-operate for the speedy accomplishment of objects so truly desirable in every point of view.

In the establishment of the proposed British settlements in the Indian Archipelago, it is not improbable that some of the native or foreign powers of that region may endeavour to impede the necessary operations, by urging unreasonable objections, or questionable claims, or by making exorbitant demands for the cession of such territories, claims, and privileges as the British authorities may wish to acquire. Difficulties of this nature, and other impediments, may reasonably be expected to arise ; but, as such occur, means will doubtless be found for surmounting them ; and if the parties concerned can be induced to consider the same with a view to the conclusion of amicable and equitable arrangements, the results will, in most cases, be perfectly satisfactory.

Of whatsoever nature or kind such actual, or even assumed, rights and privileges may really be, it will

be better that the British government shall acquire all which it may, upon consideration, deem it advisable to obtain, by means of negotiations, treaties, and arrangements, rather than by any exertion of force. Hostile or violent measures usually cost much more than arrangements of a peaceful kind; and when it may be made evident to the claimants of the rights and privileges referred to, that, by surrendering the same for certain valuable considerations, they will benefit far more than by retaining them, they will not be found unwilling to cede dubious or even valid claims, which in their hands can only continue to be barren and unproductive. It is certain that a country so eminently powerful and wealthy as Great Britain should be one of the last to condescend to the commission of any wrong for the acquisition of an increase of territory or dominion; or to seek to wrest by force, or unjustly, from any other state that to which the British nation may have no valid or recognised claim.

Should the country require the cession of any particular territory or privileges, owned or claimed by some other state, the desired cession should be acquired by means of a negotiation and treaty, and not by a seizure; and if a reasonable and friendly arrangement cannot be effected for obtaining the object sought, the same should be left in the quiet possession of the holders or claimants thereof. The

immense wealth of the British nation clearly enables its authorities to acquire, by negotiation and purchase, and without difficulty or inconvenience, any territories now lying waste which its people may desire to occupy; and it is highly probable that any territory or privileges which the country may require, for the promotion of commerce and colonization in the Indian Archipelago, may be thus, and very cheaply and easily, acquired. It is scarcely warrantable to suppose that, in treating for the cession to Great Britain of any territory, or of any rights or privileges, the British authorities will enter into any disadvantageous or injudicious agreements.

Negotiations for the acquisition of any such objects should, however, be made provisionally and conditionally, and subject to the approval and modification, or to the rejection of the British government.

This precaution will prevent the nation from getting involved, by any of its functionaries, in any serious disputes, or in any treaties or agreements which may be disadvantageous or embarrassing.

In reviewing the several measures and operations hereinbefore proposed, for the adoption of the British government in the Indian Archipelago, some few cursory observations will be made thereupon, consecutively. The great importance and desirability of the said measures and operations will, it is believed, be very generally admitted; and the following remarks

are intended to manifest that the proceedings suggested are quite practicable, and likely to prove beneficial to all concerned.

The colonization and improvement of extensive and valuable territories, now comparatively waste and unproductive, the civilization of the native inhabitants of such countries, the development of their resources, and the creation of new and inexhaustible fields for the free commerce of all nations, are objects deserving the highest consideration of Great Britain, and other maritime states, and which all should be desirous of promoting.

It will also be generally allowed that the British nation is now pre-eminently qualified, in every way, for the accomplishment of such operations, and more likely than any other country to carry the same into effect successfully and satisfactorily.

The merchants and traders of Great Britain, and her colonial possessions, deem themselves capable of competing, upon equal terms, with those of any other nation, and will not, therefore, require any monopolizing or exclusive regulations in their favour in any arrangements which the British government may cause to be effected in the Indian Archipelago. Native and foreign traders, and others, will doubtless be permitted to conduct their operations and affairs under the same conditions and regulations that will be applicable to the proceedings of British subjects,

and more than this they can hardly desire or expect.

In the various operations and proceedings which may be effected by the direction, or on behalf of the British Government in the Indian Archipelago, there will be no needless or unwarrantable interference with the rights, claims, or privileges, or with the customs and habits of any party therein.

The British government will, of course, assert and maintain its own just and valid claims, but will do so with equity and moderation; and will enter into negotiations for any concessions which may be required for its purposes.

In every point of view it is desirable that reasonable, or even liberal, compensations or considerations should be allowed for such concessions, and there will seldom be much difficulty in estimating and deciding upon what should be granted for the same.

The value to the owners or holders of the possession, claim, or privilege, that may be required, is what should be allowed for it. Such owners or holders will usually have the option of accepting or declining any offer or proposal that may be made to them, and in determining whether they will retain or part with the rights or privileges required, it will be expedient that they should consider whether the same might not continue as heretofore to be nearly useless and unproductive in their hands.

When it shall be generally known that the British government will not sanction or allow of any trespass upon, or any interference with, the rights or privileges of any native or foreign power in the Indian Archipelago, otherwise than in the manner above indicated, the formation of British settlements therein, and the necessary proceedings in relation thereto, will not be viewed with any apprehension or jealousy, but will probably be regarded approvingly by all parties.

To suffer such a magnificent and extensive region to remain any longer undeveloped, and comparatively unproductive, would be nearly inexcusable, when the measures necessary for rendering its immense resources available to all the world, are not only practicable and necessary, but are such as will redound to the honour and advantage of Great Britain, and are entirely unobjectionable.

The reign of Queen Victoria has already been rendered memorable by numerous important events ; and as "Peace hath her victories as well as war," it is most desirable that her Majesty's reign should be still further signallized by the accomplishment of accurate and complete surveys and explorations of the Indian Archipelago ; and by a just and peaceful annexation to the British dominions of several important and extensive territories, which, under the fostering care of British rule, may hereafter become

as valuable as some of our Indian or Australian possessions.

For the accomplishment of purposes so desirable and unobjectionable, and so likely to produce advantageous results to Great Britain, and to all the world, the necessary funds and powers will be readily voted by a Parliament anxious to promote the national interests in a legitimate and honourable manner, and to such an authorization by the legislature but few, if any, will be found to demur.

The voyages and discoveries of COOK, FLINDERS, and other celebrated navigators, have reflected the utmost renown upon the reign of the sovereign in whose time the same were effected; and it should ever be remembered that it is to the promoters of such voyages, and to those who so ably accomplished them, we owe all the benefits and advantages which the British nation has derived from our flourishing and prosperous colonies in Australasia.

It is not, however, asserted or assumed that the proceedings herein suggested may produce results so immensely beneficial as those just cited; but there is assuredly good reason for anticipating that the nation will be most amply compensated for all the trouble and outlay which may be incurred in the prosecution thereof; and when it is considered that, apart from any commercial profit or advantage, a vast amount of real good may be effected, and much national honour

may be attained, by means of the operations recommended, it is to be hoped that, for the sake of all concerned, the requisite arrangements for the accomplishment of the same may be forthwith and zealously entered upon.

We possess an abundance of vessels admirably adapted for the service, well equipped, manned, and officered; is it possible that these can be better or more advantageously employed? We have a redundancy of naval, military, and civil officers, who would be well pleased to be engaged in the superintendence and management of the necessary operations. We have also civilians, seamen, soldiers, mechanics, labourers, and others, in abundance, and who would gladly occupy themselves, in their respective places, in furtherance of the required arrangements. We have stores of every kind that can possibly be wanted, in the warehouses and arsenals of Great Britain; and such occasional supplies as the expeditions may require can be readily procured from our Australian colonies. We have many learned and scientific men, as astronomers, naturalists, geologists, botanists, artists, lawyers, and others, who, in their several vocations, would zealously engage in such expeditions. We have ship-owners, and merchants, manufacturers, mechanics, and traders, to whom the opening of new fields for commerce and colonization will be most acceptable. We have

clergymen, missionaries, and other duly qualified persons, who will gladly aid in promoting the civilization and improvement of the native inhabitants of the Archipelago. We have all other requisite or conceivable means and inducements essential for the accomplishment of the objects proposed ; and a government capable of aiding therein, able to extend a just and necessary protection to its subjects and allies in any part of the world, and wielding powers and forces sufficient, in case of need, to compel a due observance of its regulations and ordinances. In short, there really appears to be nothing wanting, and the time seems to be most propitious for the establishment of British settlements, and the accomplishment of the other objects proposed in the Indian Archipelago.

With some few necessary alterations and modifications, the plan adopted in founding the colony of South Australia may be advantageously followed in the formation of the settlements suggested. Under such a plan, the sales of lands that would be effected at the various settlements would help to reimburse the requisite outlay for their establishment and maintenance, and the customary fiscal arrangements would also contribute towards the defrayal of such outlay ; but, and probably for several years, the expenditure may materially exceed the receipts. Such excess might properly constitute a charge upon

the future revenues of the settlements formed, and should be made payable under some convenient arrangements.

It has already been stated, but it is proper it should be here repeated, that the climate generally of the Indian Archipelago is much less suitable to the European constitution than that of our Australian colonies.

In many localities it is too hot for the permanent residence of Europeans, and, in some particular situations, would, perhaps, be found extremely unhealthy; but all the published accounts of the place concur in stating that, except in low and swampy positions, or in places encumbered with a dense and rank vegetation, the climate, though hot and tropical, is exceedingly pleasant and salubrious, and highly favourable for the cultivation of numerous valuable productions.

Many writers have stated that the climate of several of the principal islands and places of the Indian Archipelago is quite equal, if not superior, to that of Singapore, Hong Kong, Canton, Manilla, and Java, and by no means unsuitable to Europeans. In favourable situations, and with proper sanitary regulations, the natives of European countries will not find the climate either unpleasant or unhealthy; but it is not to be expected, nor is it desirable, that European mechanics and labourers should emigrate

thither in great numbers, because the native inhabitants are numerous, and may be readily converted into useful mechanics and labourers.

The proposed British settlements in the Indian Archipelago will bear a nearer resemblance to Singapore than to our Australian colonies; and the great bulk of the labouring population therein will be always composed of Malays and Chinese, people who are singularly tractable and industrious.

The superior classes of those people have, also, been found very docile and intelligent; and it is certain that, with kind and judicious treatment, they may soon be rendered competent to the performance of almost any services or duties in a very satisfactory manner.

Many of the native inhabitants will in all probability, and like the natives of some of our Indian possessions, become considerable shipowners, merchants, traders, planters, manufacturers, builders, contractors, &c.

When piracy and slavery cannot any longer be carried on with security and advantage, those deplorable evils will naturally and permanently cease.

The warlike and adventurous pirates and slavers of the Archipelago will suddenly become transformed into active and enterprising traders, and the complete suppression of piracy will be thus effected without carnage or destruction, and in the most

laudable manner possible. The necessary operations for the formation of the proposed new settlements will be materially facilitated by the proximity of the British colonies in Australia: between these places a considerable intercourse will ensue, and, by means thereof, all parties will be benefited. The other portions of the world will indirectly participate in the wealth that will be derived from the Indian Archipelago, and, in place of hearing occasionally of indiscriminate and barbarous massacres of the clever and enterprising people of that region, we shall be gratified by receiving accounts of their commercial, agricultural, and trading operations, and their rapid progress in civilization and prosperity. The arrangements and operations previously suggested will, upon examination, be found free from any valid or insuperable objections.

There is, certainly, no power that can so well or so effectually accomplish the development of the immense resources of the Indian Archipelago as Great Britain; nor is there any other state which, having a complete ascendancy and control over that region, would throw it open, unreservedly, to the commerce of all the world!

Under British supremacy, all matters in the Indian Archipelago are likely to be better and more equitably conducted than under the rule or sovereignty of any other power that can be named; because

every other government still clings, in some degree, to the fallacies of exclusion, monopoly, high tariffs, protection, and the like, whilst that of Great Britain has adopted free trade in its fullest signification.

It is considered that the foregoing propositions cannot be controverted, and that the same will furnish complete and satisfactory answers to any objections that may, unadvisedly, be made to the extension of British dominion or to British supremacy in the Indian Archipelago.

In conclusion, it may be safely stated that the proceedings and operations recommended will effect—

The beneficial and unobjectionable employment of a considerable number of British subjects of every grade ;

The survey and exploration of many important countries now but little known ;

The formation of several new and valuable British settlements ;

The creation of profitable and inexhaustible fields for the commercial enterprise of all nations ;

The extinction of piracy and slavery in the Indian Archipelago ;

The development of vast, but now unavailing wealth ;

The civilization and improvement of several millions of intelligent human beings ; and

The annexation (so to speak) of another India, or Australia, to the British dominions.

All these important and desirable results may be attained without violence or injustice; and it is to be hoped that the proceedings necessary for their accomplishment may be forthwith entered upon.

The propositions which have been submitted for consideration are no idle dreams—no visionary notions of improbable events—no complicated or unsound projects—no plans impossible of accomplishment; but will be found to comprise measures and suggestions which will assuredly be soon and, perhaps, completely realized.

The whole of the spacious, habitable, and magnificent region, known as “The Indian Archipelago”—its immense and fertile territories, its numerous and intelligent people, its vast indigenous wealth, and its inexhaustible resources—seem to have been marvellously reserved until the present time, in order that the British nation may now worthily achieve what is evidently its exalted and truly glorious mission—viz., the occupation, the development, the improvement, and the civilization—by unobjectionable measures, of many extensive countries which, in respect of natural advantages and capabilities, may certainly be ranked amongst the richest and the most highly-favoured portions of the world.

APPENDIX.

FOR the accomplishment of objects recommended in the preceding account of the Indian Archipelago, it is proposed that the following Address shall be numerous and influentially signed, and presented to Her Majesty, viz. :—

"ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

"We, the undersigned, Noblemen, Gentlemen, Merchants, Bankers, Ship Owners, Traders, and others, have the honour to approach your Majesty's Throne, for the purpose of soliciting

"That your Majesty, by and with the advice of your Majesty's Councils, will be graciously pleased to cause an Expedition to be forthwith prepared and dispatched to the Indian Archipelago, for effecting Surveys and Explorations in that extensive and magnificent region, with a view to the establishment of British Settlements upon the great Islands of BORNEO and NEW GUINEA, and at other eligible places therein ; measures which the undersigned, in common with a great number of your Majesty's subjects, are fully convinced will honourably and most beneficially extend the dominions of the British Crown ; confer the great advantages of British and European Commerce and Colonization upon a most extensive and magnificent, but hitherto undeveloped portion of the Globe ; open many new, abundant, and inexhaustible sources of Wealth and Commercial Enterprise to all Nations ;

and which, while conferring inestimable benefits upon the World at large, will effect, in the most efficacious manner possible, and without coercion, violence, or bloodshed, the speedy and complete suppression of Piracy and Slavery throughout that region, and the improvement and civilization of several millions of intelligent human beings now in a condition of semi-barbarism, but who have long, and most earnestly, desired to obtain the advantages of European Commerce and communication.

“We, therefore, venture to hope that your Majesty will favourably regard this Address from some of your Majesty’s most loyal and dutiful subjects ; and

“We devoutly pray for a long continuance of your Majesty’s Reign, and for the health, happiness, and prosperity of your Majesty, of your Majesty’s illustrious Consort, and all your Royal Family.”

And that an Association shall be formed in London for the promotion of colonization and commerce in the Indian Archipelago, and for civilizing the inhabitants, and developing the resources of that extensive region.

It is intended that such Association shall be constituted in the manner set forth in the annexed plan, and that it shall comprise, amongst its patrons and members, a considerable number of the nobility, gentry, merchants, bankers, traders, and others of the United Kingdom.

The proceedings of such Association will, doubtless, be judicious, and well calculated to effect the desired ends.

It is to be understood that the annexed plan, for the proposed Association, is suggested for modification and adoption, in so far as it may be deemed adequate for effecting the objects to be accomplished.

The Council of the Association will decide upon all its measures and arrangements ; and it is only reasonable to

expect that a numerous body of enlightened Englishmen, constituted for specific purposes, will act in such a manner as will best promote the ends in view, and be honourable to themselves and to their country.

To pretend to dictate precisely the course and operations which it may be necessary for the Association to adopt for carrying its objects into effect, or to pre-arrange and provide for every contingency or incident which may arise in the course of its proceedings, would be both absurd and useless.

Suggestions for the consideration of the Council may, however, be properly submitted, and will, doubtless, receive due attention.

Upon the formation of the Association, the Council should immediately communicate with such departments of Her Majesty's Government as may have any influence or authority in the matters to be effected; and the Council should always endeavour to obtain the sanction of the Government to its intended proceedings.

Measures which may have reference to colonization, or to scientific or commercial enterprises to be conducted in a region so distant, and so peculiar as the Indian Archipelago, will frequently require to be initiated and supported by the power and authority of the British Government.

Without such authority much time may be lost, and great difficulties may arise in the promotion of the objects of the Association; while it is obvious that the mutual co-operation of the Government and the Association must be conducive to the national interests.

The following is the plan proposed for an Association for promoting colonization and commerce in the Indian Archipelago :—

It should number amongst its patrons many of the most eminent of the nobility and gentry of the kingdom.

Its affairs should be managed and conducted by means of a Council, and a Committee of the members elected from the general body.

The Council and Committee should be assisted by all requisite officers—as trustees, treasurers, bankers, secretaries, assistants, &c.

Subscriptions, in aid of the funds and for the purposes of the Association, should be received from parties desirous of becoming members, and from other parties who may not wish to become members thereof.

A subscription of not less than ten pounds should render the subscriber eligible for election for any office of the Association, if otherwise duly qualified.

A subscription of not less than five pounds should qualify the subscriber to be elected on the Committee, if otherwise eligible.

A subscription of not less than one pound will constitute the subscriber an ordinary member of the Association.

The funds of the Association should be vested in the trustees, and administered by the Council, the Committee, and a Finance Committee.

As an Association thus formed will exempt its members from all pecuniary liability, any party favourable to its proposed objects may join it without apprehension. As previously stated, the chief objects of the Association will be—

To induce Her Majesty's Government to cause all necessary surveys and explorations to be forthwith effected in the Indian Archipelago.

To adopt measures for effecting the formation of settlements at various places in that region; and, generally, to carry into effect the measures and operations suggested in the prefixed account of the Indian Archipelago.

The recent occurrences in China, and the sending thither of powerful armaments from Great Britain, are incidents which bear so materially upon the contents of the foregoing pages, as to induce a few additional observations in support of the measures and arrangements therein recommended.

The British nation, in the name of "The Honourable East India Company," has, by means of a vast and lavish expenditure of blood and treasure, acquired the dominion, in India, over an immense territory, abounding in all the elements of wealth, and peopled by nearly one hundred and fifty millions of inhabitants. The nation is commonly supposed to have derived, and to be still obtaining, rather more than commensurate advantages from such outlay; but it is somewhat doubtful whether the commerce and the revenue which Great Britain has acquired from India have proved adequate, commercially speaking, to the enormous expenditure which has been incurred in the acquisition thereof. This uncertainty, as to the advantages of the British Empire in India, indicates that the local government, or administration of the affairs of that country, requires great improvement; and, certainly, manifests that the vast resources of that extensive and opulent country, and the productive powers of its numerous inhabitants, have not been judiciously availed of.

In advancing these opinions it is not intended that any undue reproach should be cast upon the past government of British India; the faults and errors which have prevailed therein have resulted more from an ignorance of, and an indifference as to, the requirements of the country and its inhabitants than from any tyranny or corrupt proceedings; but, in thus excusing such faults and errors, it is proper to specify the same and to deprecate their continuance. It may be admitted, in a general sense, that the British Go-

vernment of India has been conducted in an honourable and equitable manner, and with a benevolent consideration of the condition and welfare of the native inhabitants. As a necessary result, it is quite clear that the condition of the population, under British rule, is vastly preferable to that which they sustained while under the dominion of native princes. The faults of the British administration in India have been more those of *omission* and *neglect* than of *commission*, and have consisted chiefly of the very abortive and inadequate manner in which the benefits of European civilization have been introduced into that country, and of the comparatively trifling development which has been effected of the unlimited resources of India. In the native population we have a very ample supply of docile, clever, and industrious labourers, and a reasonable measure of superior persons. Much of the territory is exuberantly fertile and productive, and well adapted for the growth of products and materials which are largely imported into Europe, and of which the importation may be indefinitely increased. Until this time, however, the British Government of India has effected but little for the promotion of objects so desirable as those just mentioned; nearly all its efforts and operations having been directed to successive annexations of new territories, to the military and other proceedings rendered necessary by such annexations, and to the raising of a revenue, by the taxation of the native inhabitants.

It may now be advisable to adopt measures for the improvement of the country and the civilization of the native inhabitants, and to commence a new era in the administration of India. Whilst the natives of the distant provinces may have no means of conveying their produce to the principal ports of the country, there would be but little

practical utility in inducing them to raise large quantities of bulky commodities, however greatly the same may be required in Europe, inasmuch as the conveyance thereof would now cost more, perhaps, than such produce would realize; but the immediate formation, wheresoever necessary, of railroads and tramways will enable the inhabitants of many distant portions of the country to raise articles of export with advantage. Considerable alarm prevails at the present time, in Lancashire and elsewhere, lest there should be a short supply of cotton from America. Whether this apprehension be well founded or not, need not be here discussed; but it seems clear that more cotton is required than can be obtained from America; and, if the fact be admitted, it may well be asked, Why may we not procure cotton from some of our Indian territories which are known to produce the article most redundantly, and in the greatest perfection, and where the labourers necessary for its cultivation and preparation may be obtained at very low wages? The improvement and prosperity of India will be more rapidly and extensively promoted by the formation of railroads and tramways than by any other measures or operations that can be devised; and, by means of such undertakings, we may insure a constant and regular supply of cotton of the best quality, and at a low price.

The co-operation of steam vessels with such railways and tramways will also tend to induce the production of cotton and other articles of export, and to reduce the cost thereof to the consumers. Numerous other staple articles will; moreover, be produced in India when such means of conveyance shall be provided—viz., tea, coffee, sugar, rice, tobacco, saltpetre, indigo, silk, teak, and other timber.

In many of the islands of the Indian Archipelago cotton

is now grown; and it is certain that it could be produced therein with great facility, and in any quantity, by the native inhabitants, if they were afforded the means of exchanging the article for British manufactured goods or money; and the same may be said with regard to many other articles of East Indian produce. Labour in tropical countries will always be better remunerated, if employed in growing cotton, sugar, spices, &c., than if employed in manufactures.

The cost of the construction of any necessary railroads and tramways may be nearly defrayed from the proceeds of sales and leases of lands along the lines of roads and around the principal stations. The lands necessary for such railroads and tramways, stations, &c., will be obtainable at a comparatively small cost in India; and as native labourers and useful assistants may be there procured in any required number, and at very low wages, the necessary cost of such works should not exceed one-third, or, at the most, one-half of the cost of similar works in England. Assuming that sales and leases of lands along the lines of roads that may be constructed will nearly defray the first cost of such roads, the traffic thereupon may, perhaps, suffice to maintain the works and ways in an efficient condition, or may prove more considerable than is now anticipated. In addition to the construction of the required railroads and tramways in India, lands may be there leased or sold by the Government, at very low rates, to individuals or to companies disposed to raise produce of any kind, or otherwise to employ such lands beneficially. Such leases and sales of Government lands would induce capitalists to engage in a variety of useful enterprises, and would materially promote the improvement and prosperity of British India. The regulations under

which such lands may be leased or sold should be as little onerous as possible to the tenants and purchasers; and, with this proviso, those parties may be very safely left to their own devices for turning the lands to a profitable account, and for taking care of their own interests. For the future, such leases and sales of lands in India should form important sources of revenue in that country. Hitherto, the distant lands in that territory have been of but comparatively little value, because the means of communication and conveyance between such lands and the chief ports and places were wanting.

When railways and tramways shall be formed from various inland places to the principal ports, and be met thereat by steam and sailing vessels, a considerable proportion of such distant lands will probably become valuable; while it is nearly certain that lands in the vicinity of ports, stations, &c., will frequently realize very high prices. It may also be stated, that a revenue, derived from leases and sales of lands, will be advantageous to the Government, without being onerous to the community; and that the progress of the country, in the way of productiveness and of general improvement, is likely to be proportionate with the formation of railroads and tramways, and the facilities which may be afforded for the procuration of freehold and leasehold lands. Considering how long a large portion of India has been under British rule, it does seem remarkable that so few British planters should have established themselves throughout that extensive territory; but this may, perhaps, have arisen from the regulations of the East India Company being adverse to such operations.

Reverting from this digression to matters pertaining more immediately to the Indian Archipelago, it may be safely predicted that the differences now existing between the

Governments of Great Britain and China will be shortly adjusted; and that the British armaments, in the vicinity of China, may soon be employed elsewhere, and for a better purpose than that of coercing the Chinese into arrangements and concessions which we have no right to require of them, and which, if desirable, should have been obtained by negotiation and treaty.

Our empire in India has been acquired by successive conquests, and has been maintained by means of a profuse and enormous expenditure, and by the continual employment of large military and naval forces. That this empire is now highly valuable to the British nation, and likely to become much more so, will hardly be disputed; but it is also clear that the advantages which England has derived from India have not been so fully adequate to the costs incurred in the attainment of the same; as might reasonably have been anticipated. Upon a careful and lenient examination of the enormous outlay which has in various ways been made upon, or in respect of, the British dominions in India, the balance of advantage to Britain may seem but small; but the benefits which India has secured and enjoyed from British rule are incalculably greater and more estimable. Henceforward, England will, doubtless, reap more important advantages from India than have hitherto been attained; a consummation devoutly to be wished, and which the formation of railroads and tramways will help to accomplish in the most desirable manner.

With many great and important enterprises or undertakings a large outlay has to be made, and to be continued for a long period, before any returns or profits can be derived therefrom; but, after securing a certain position, such enterprises or undertakings may prove immensely advantageous, and yield returns which may well be deemed

satisfactory to all concerned. In the time to come it may be thus with the British Empire in India, and, in all probability, the formation of railways and tramways, and the suggested leasings and sales of lands in that country will tend to produce a result so desirable, and which is not entirely unmerited. The progress and prosperity of the country will be wonderfully accelerated and improved by providing the means of rapid communication and conveyance at cheap rates, as the growth of produce will necessarily ensue therefrom.

Many of the remarks above expressed, and which are intended to manifest that the British Empire in India has been far more costly and much less advantageous to England than it should have proved, will equally apply to the commerce and relations which have heretofore subsisted between Great Britain and China. It is considered that, in place of restricting British commercial operations to Canton and Hong Kong, we should have obtained from the Chinese Government the cession of the islands of Formosa and Chusan, on the eastern coast of China.

With British trading establishments, upon an extensive scale, at Canton, Hong Kong, Formosa, and Chusan, we should never have been brought into any hostile collision or unfriendly relations with the Government or the people of China, and might have carried on a more extended and profitable commerce with that extraordinary country than we have hitherto effected. The important and well situated islands of Formosa and Chusan would have been readily ceded to us upon advantageous and equitable conditions by the Imperial Government of China; and it is certain that the Chinese traders and merchants would resort in vast numbers, and with every kind of Chinese produce and merchandise, to any British trading establishments within an easy

distance of their coast. The Imperial Government of China is naturally and, perhaps, wisely, jealous of the intrusion of Europeans or other foreigners into the interior of their country; and foreigners have clearly no more right to effect any such intrusion, by force, than the Chinese have to effect, by force, a settlement in Great Britain. The frequent and lamentable wars and disputes which have occurred between Great Britain and China, and the enormous waste of life and property which has ensued therefrom, might thus have been easily avoided; while a far more extensive and profitable commerce and more cordial relations with the Chinese Empire would have been enjoyed than has hitherto been attained. Now that the British Government has formidable armaments in the China Seas, negotiations should be opened with the Chinese authorities for the cession, to Great Britain, of the islands of Formosa and Chusan, and, perhaps, of some other islands off the coast of China. Those who know anything of the Chinese, know full well that any British trading stations which may be established in the vicinity of any part of their coast, would very soon be abundantly supplied with Chinese produce and manufactures, and that British manufactures and other merchandize would, to a considerable extent, be received in barter for the same. By means of such arrangements, we may henceforth avoid disagreements and hostilities with the Chinese, which can only end disastrously for all concerned; extend our commerce with them very materially; and exonerate ourselves from their customs and port duties, as well as from numerous other embarrassing and onerous impositions.

Many public writers, and other well informed persons, are of opinion that the opium trade, now carried on by British merchants with China, should be forthwith relin-

quished. That this trade is exceedingly profitable to the parties by whom it is conducted cannot be doubted ; but it is equally certain that it is very injurious, demoralising, and destructive to vast numbers of the Chinese people ; and that their government is most anxious to effect its extinction.

The depravation and destruction of a few hundred thousands of Chinese per annum, and the outrages effected against their government by the traders in opium, cannot, however, be regarded as of much importance, in comparison with the few hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling which may be annually derived from the opium traffic by a small number of British merchants and others ; and, more especially, when it may be manifested that the very same parties might readily, and with less cost and trouble, obtain equal, if not superior, advantages by conducting some more honest commerce with the Chinese. In lieu of sending them opium, they might send British manufactured goods and other merchandize ; and, in so doing, would, probably, soon discover that the opium trade had been a kind of suicidal mistake ; and that the substitution of a general trade, and the discontinuance of the trade in opium, must prove reciprocally more advantageous to the parties concerned.

With many persons engaged in commercial operations, profit seems to be the only object in view ; and all other considerations appear to be disregarded by them. It is this limited perception of the effects of their proceedings and arrangements which causes slave-traders, slave-owners, pirates, robbers, smugglers, and other malefactors, and possibly opium traders, to see nothing wrong in their transactions, and which renders them impervious to any reason or argument opposed to their notions. The time may, however, arrive when the opium trade will be regarded as

anything but desirable, and as somewhat analogous to the slave-trade of former days. The same amount of capital, labour, and superintendence that is now devoted to the conduct of the opium traffic would, perhaps, yield a greater profit, if employed in some legitimate and honourable commerce with the Chinese, and be reciprocally beneficial.

While admitting the value and importance to Great Britain of the British Empire in India, and of the trade with China, the preceding remarks will, perhaps, have shown that the cost thereof to the British nation has been much greater than it should have been; and the following observations will be submitted with the view of manifesting that, in the Indian Archipelago, England may now obtain a new Indian Empire, and a commerce more extensive and advantageous than that which is at present carried on between Great Britain and China, by means quite unobjectionable, and with a comparatively small outlay.

It would be difficult to over-estimate the value and importance of the numerous islands comprised within the limits of the Indian Archipelago; a glance at the map will show their relative positions. In the aggregate, these islands present an area of some millions of square miles, or a surface nearly equal in extent to that of all Australia. The soil is generally fertile; in many places, exuberantly so; and the climate, though tropical, is said to be agreeable, and not unhealthy. The islands abound in valuable indigenous productions, and every sort of East Indian produce may be raised therein with great facility. Commodious harbours, navigable rivers, inlets of the sea, and positions well adapted for settlements are to be found at some of the principal islands. The native inhabitants comprise nearly thirty millions of persons, and are, mostly, docile, intelligent, and active, favourably disposed towards Europeans,

and likely, if required, to form valuable labourers, mechanics, and assistants. Nearly all these people are extremely desirous of placing themselves and their several countries under British rule, well knowing how greatly they would benefit by so doing. They are now in what may be termed a half-civilised condition, but are susceptible of great improvement; and it is certain that an extensive and most profitable commerce may be forthwith conducted with them. The establishment of British settlements amongst them would be most favourably regarded by their present rulers, and by the people generally; but such settlements should not be formed upon a petty scale, nor conducted in a mean or paltry manner. Upon a careful and dispassionate consideration of the facts just recited, and of other matters, there really appears to be no valid objection or serious impediment to the British nation's immediately assuming the sovereignty over the whole of the Indian Archipelago, with a clear reservation and a faithful observance of all existing rights, privileges, possessions, and (just) claims.

In pursuance of this view it may be stated that, up to the present time, we have expended, perhaps, nearly two hundred millions of pounds sterling in the acquisition and maintenance of our Indian Empire, and a vast amount in the establishment of our commerce with China; we have now a clear opportunity of acquiring another and, it may be, a more valuable Indian Empire, and a new and preferable commerce, in a peaceful and unobjectionable manner, and at a comparatively trifling cost! In doing so, we shall clearly benefit the native inhabitants.

We shall promote the prosperity of all the surrounding countries;

We shall open a free, safe, and lucrative commerce to all nations;

And we shall effect, with advantage to all the world, the development of numerous sources of wealth and affluence which are now unavailing.

It is possible that some (untenable) objections may be raised to such proceedings, by parties who may not have properly considered the nature and probable effects thereof. There will be but little difficulty in obviating any objections that can be offered; and, with reference thereto, it may be asked—

Is there any other nation than Great Britain that is both able and willing to do all that is above stated?

Is there any other nation that is able to say—

We require no exclusive or favouring conditions or privileges for our subjects.

We fear no competition, and will, therefore, open a free and unrestricted commerce, upon equal terms, to all nations.

We seek not to oppress, to enslave, or to injure the native inhabitants, but to improve their condition.

We can and will establish law, order, and security for all parties, and will make all equal before the law.

We have capital sufficient for any purposes we may desire to effect, and parties capable of applying it efficaciously for such purposes. And that—

We have both the will and the power to do all that we may deem to be just, and right, and necessary, either in the Indian Archipelago or elsewhere.

Whether wisely or not, we have frequently had large armaments dispatched to India and China, and employed for long periods in those countries. The outlay consequent upon such expeditions must have been enormous, and it is to be hoped that the objects which may have been achieved by them have not proved unworthy of the trouble and

expense which the nation has incurred in their accomplishment.

If, upon minor considerations, we could prepare and dispatch such expeditions, and incur such an immense expenditure, surely a comparatively small outlay may be now made for the acquisition of—

A new Indian Empire,
A new and extensive commerce,
New and valuable settlements,

and of numerous sources of wealth.

The people of the Indian Archipelago are absolutely soliciting and entreating us to assume the sovereignty of their several islands.

They are well aware, and it is easy for any other parties to perceive, that the native inhabitants would benefit extensively by such a proceeding; while it may be truly stated that it would also prove advantageous to ourselves and to the world at large. Our shipowners, merchants, and traders are continually requiring new fields for commercial enterprises, and for the extension of our commerce; yet, still, this spacious and magnificent region—everywhere navigable and accessible, marvellous in the natural beauties of its scenery, of extraordinary fertility, teeming with undeveloped riches, and certainly constituting one of the finest portions of the globe (and, though actually courting our occupancy)—is, in a manner disregarded, and permitted to remain in desolation and unproductiveness; while great exertions are made, and vast expenses are incurred, for the promotion of undertakings of comparatively trifling importance.

Do we need increased importations of East Indian produce generally, and of cotton especially?

Do we require further supplies of the most valuable

metals and minerals—as gold, silver, tin, antimony, quick-silver, copper, &c.?

If so, where, in all the world, may the same be obtained so abundantly and cheaply as in the Indian Archipelago?

The labourers and mechanics necessary for the production of such supplies are already in the islands in sufficient numbers, as previously stated, and will work well and faithfully under British superintendence.

If it be more advantageous to obtain the produce and merchandise above-mentioned, in barter for British manufactures, than for coin and bullion, it is in the islands of the Archipelago, above all other places, where such an exchange may be effected.

In accomplishing these operations, we should do no wrong either to any native or foreign power, but should scrupulously respect their rights and privileges; while we should carefully abstain from infringing their customs and regulations. Should it be found essential for the promotion of our objects that we should acquire any particular interests or claims, there would be no great difficulty in concluding bargains for the same with the parties in whom such interests, &c., may be vested.

With our capacity for using such possessions advantageously, we can afford to pay for the same in a manner that would probably be highly satisfactory to the parties conceding or transferring them; while it is certain that even a very fine estate may be unavailing, while possessed by an indigent owner. In order to reap, it is necessary to sow; and it is only a wealthy and powerful maritime state, like Great Britain, that can make the outlay and arrangements necessary for rendering the islands of the Indian Archipelago as productive and prosperous as they ought to be. The European states holding claims, or who may be in-

terested in the Indian Archipelago, have not the capital and the power necessary to derive much advantage therefrom, and would, in most cases, be happy to concede their interests, for some reasonable consideration, to such a power as Great Britain. The whole of the Phillippine Islands, now held by Spain, seem to belong of right to the British nation, inasmuch as the said islands were captured by the British in 1762, but were restored to Spain, upon the latter country mortgaging the same to Great Britain, as security for the payment of the ransom agreed upon.

Neither interest nor principal has ever been paid by Spain, and the islands, therefore, belong to Great Britain; but it would be far better to purchase the said islands for some reasonable consideration, if the possession thereof should be considered desirable, than to take them in virtue of the mortgage above-mentioned. Formosa and Chusan, with some other islands off the Coast of China, may be obtained in a similar manner of the Chinese Government.

Borneo, New Guinea, Timor, New Britain, New Ireland, Flores, Sandal Wood Island, Sumatra, Sumbawa, and numerous other important places may, if desired, be obtained as New Zealand was procured—viz., by means of treaties, bargains, and arrangements with the native chiefs and people.

The Dutch possessions in the Archipelago will, probably, continue to be held and conducted by that power; and, if not ceded for some valuable considerations, will surely participate in the benefits which the establishment of British rule over the Indian Archipelago will confer upon that region generally.

It is hardly to be expected that the British Government, which is in effect but the executor of the will or wishes of the British nation, will originate plans and measures for achieving what has been hereinbefore proposed, or show

any extraordinary alacrity in carrying any such plans into effect. That powerful, but somewhat inert body will require to be strongly urged to undertake the necessary proceedings, and to be most fully satisfied that such will be advantageous for the nation, and are, in every respect, desirable, justifiable, practicable, commendable, and requisite. The Government will not merely require to be convinced of the expediency and advantages of all that is proposed to be done, and that the measures suggested are well calculated to effect the desired ends, but will require extreme pressure and solicitation from those who may be anxious to promote the necessary proceedings.

Many of our most important colonial possessions have been obtained almost in despite of the Colonial Department and of the executive body of the time—as Virginia, New England, and many other settlements in America; our East Indian possessions, the colonies of South Australia, New Zealand, and Victoria, with numerous other places; and it is just possible that the Colonial Department of the present day is not much wiser or better conducted than it was formerly. The defects of the Colonial Office are those which seem to be inherent in all our administrative departments; but these need not be much regarded in relation to matters so momentous and desirable as the acquisition and development of the Indian Archipelago. Fortunately, affairs of this kind do not entirely depend upon the sagacity and discretion of colonial ministers and their subordinates, “for there be higher than they.”

There will not be much difficulty in manifesting the following facts to the British Government and public, viz.—

That the Indian Archipelago is a region of extraordinary value and importance;

That it is desirable and expedient that the sovereignty of

the British nation should be forthwith established over the whole of the Indian Archipelago ;

That on or before the conclusion of a treaty of peace with China, a portion of the British expedition, now in the China Seas, should be employed in surveying and partially exploring the principal islands of the Indian Archipelago ;

That measures should be adopted for the formation of British settlements at various places in the Indian Archipelago ; and

That the proper officers of the expeditions suggested should make known throughout the Indian Archipelago, and in such a manner as may be deemed requisite, the intended proceedings of the British Government.

In the conduct of the arrangements which may be found desirable, everything in the way of force or violence is to be deprecated, as at variance with sound policy.

Any concessions, surrenders, transfers, or acknowledgments which may be required, will be obtainable by means of friendly arrangements.

Titles should not be too rigidly inquired into ; and claimants will, in most cases, be willing to transfer for a moderate consideration that which, in their hands, may be almost unavailing.

Under any circumstances, it would hardly be politic for Great Britain to take forcible possession of any of the islands of the Indian Archipelago, if the cession of any required place may be obtained by means of negotiation and treaty, or some arrangement.

Any necessary outlay or expenditure which may be incurred on the part of Great Britain, in furtherance of the objects recommended, will be reimbursed to the British

public a thousand-fold, by means of the development which must ensue of many of the richest countries in the world. The Manchester mill-owners and manufacturers will be enabled to procure unlimited supplies of superior cotton at a low price from many of the countries mentioned, and will, doubtless, aid in securing those places for the British nation.

On the 23rd June, 1857, Mr. Aspinall Turner stated, in the House of Commons—"That he knew, from his own experience, that the Indian cotton was quite equal to the best American cotton, and that it could be had at a price with which America could not compete; but it was not properly cleaned, and capital alone was wanting to make the roads, so that cotton might come easily and cleanly to the coast; and that capital, and those roads, the Indian Government ought to supply."

Mr. Ross Mangles (the present Chairman of the East India Company), in continuation of same debate, stated—"That the industrial development of India was proceeding at a greater rate than England could pay for. Everything but cotton was produced in the greatest abundance. What made cotton an exception? The reason was that the men of Manchester would do nothing for themselves; but contented themselves with abusing the Government. But the truth was that the Government had done much for India. They had sanctioned, and provided for, the making of forty thousand miles of roads in India. There was nothing to prevent Englishmen from going to India and cultivating cotton; and there was nothing in the tenure of land to forbid them. One Englishman, a Mr. Landels, had done so, and was rapidly making a fortune. If Manchester men would send out their agents to India, and follow the example of Mr. Landels, there would be no scarcity of cotton."

In conclusion, it may be observed that the British nation has now an unimpeachable opportunity of acquiring, in the Indian Archipelago, a vast and most valuable extension of dominion, an immense commerce, important supplies, and much real honour and glory in the improvement and civilization of thirty millions of intelligent people.

Let us hope that such an opportunity may be properly availed of for the sake of the world at large.

FINIS.

